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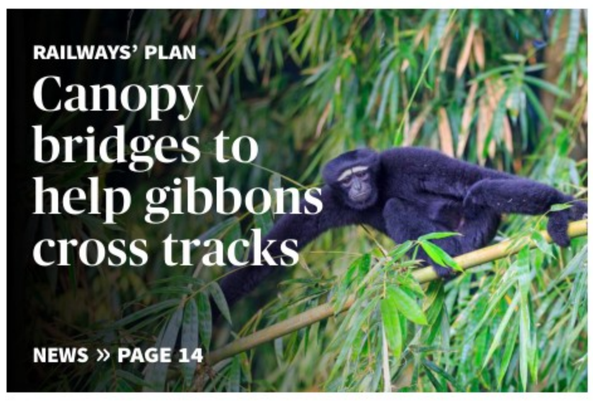
BATTLE TWIST

Kyiv to strike Russia with German weapons

WORLD » PAGE 16



RAILWAYS' PLAN

Canopy bridges to help gibbons cross tracks

NEWS » PAGE 14

AIRCRAFT 'TOO HOT'

Passengers force pilots to cancel departure

NEWS » PAGE 14

UNHOLY NEXUS

A speeding car, two deaths and a cover-up in Pune

How police and doctors bailed out an accused

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real meets Dortmund in the summit clash

SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY

HC's poser to Poonja's advocate

BENGALURU
"What right does a MLA have to go to a police station in connection with a criminal case registered against an individual?", the High Court asked the advocate representing Harish Poonja, Belthangady MLA, during a hearing on the MLA's petition.
» Page 8

BBMP clears 2,344 SWD encroachments

BENGALURU
The BBMP which has been carrying out the anti-encroachment drive, has removed 2,344 storm-water drain encroachments in the city till May 20. » Page 3

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

Marathon polling season ends today in final phase

PM Modi's Varanasi constituency among 57 Lok Sabha seats going to the polls in the 7th phase; in Odisha, voters will also exercise their franchise in 42 Assembly constituencies; counting on June 4

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Gearing up: Election officials checking EVMs at a distribution centre at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

The world's largest polling exercise to elect the 18th Lok Sabha ends on Saturday after one-and-a-half months, with 57 parliamentary constituencies going to the polls in the seventh and final phase. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among the 906 candidates in the fray in this phase, during which 10.06 crore electors are eligible to cast their votes.

Polling is scheduled to be held in eight States and Union Territories, including Bihar, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The 57 Lok Sabha seats include 41 general category seats, three reserved for Scheduled Tribes, and 13 for Scheduled Castes.

Of the seats at stake, the BJP had bagged 25 in 2019, while the Congress won eight, and the Trinamool Congress won nine. The Biju Janata Dal won four seats and the Janata Dal (United) won three; the Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Apna Dal, and Akali Dal won two seats each; and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Aam Aadmi Party each snagged a single seat.

Voting will also take place in the remaining 42 Assembly constituencies of the Odisha State Legislative Assembly.

PM in the fray

Some key constituencies to watch are Varanasi, where the Congress's Ajai Rai is challenging the Prime Minister; Mandi, where actress and BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut is pitted against the Congress's Vikramaditya Singh; Chandigarh, where Congress leader Manish Tewari is in the fray against the BJP's Sanjay Tandon; and Diamond Harbour, where the Trinamool's second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee is contesting against the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s Pratik Ur Rahman.

Over the last six phases, voting has been completed in 486 Lok Sabha seats across 28 States and Union Territories.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 13

Women cover their head with scarves to protect themselves from the heat in Patna. PTI

Heatwave kills 61, including 23 polling staff

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

At least 61 persons, including poll officials, died due to suspected heatstroke in several States on Friday.

Twenty-three officials, who are involved in the final phase of the Lok Sabha election, were among the deceased. Fourteen people have died due to heatstroke in Bihar in the last 24 hours, State officials said on Friday.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 12
THE CHENNAI EXAMPLE
» PAGE 10

Trump becomes first ex-U.S. President to be convicted of felony

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Donald Trump

Donald Trump became the first former American President to be convicted of felony crimes on Thursday as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

Judge Juan M. Merchan set sentencing for July 11, just days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where GOP leaders, who remained resolute in their support in the aftermath of the verdict, are expected to formally make Mr. Trump their nominee.

The verdict is a stunning legal reckoning for Mr. Trump and exposes him to potential prison time. Mr. Trump said on Friday that he will appeal the verdict.

The falsifying business records charges carry up to four years behind bars, though Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg would not say on Thursday whether prosecutors intend to seek imprisonment.

The conviction and even imprisonment will not bar Mr. Trump from continuing his White House pursuit.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
PRESIDENTIAL FELONY
» PAGE 10
BLINKEN'S RESPONSE
» PAGE 16

Prajwal sent to six-day SIT custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna being taken to a hospital for medical examination under tight security, in Bengaluru, on Friday. PTI

Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who has been accused of raping and sexually abusing a number of women, was arrested at the Kempegowda International Airport here upon his return from Germany in the wee hours of Friday and then remanded to the custody of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) till June 6.

The SIT, which is investigating two rape cases and one sexual assault case registered against the MP, produced him before the 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, seeking custody for 14 days. According to sources in the SIT, the police also seized the mobile phone in Mr. Prajwal's possession when he landed in Bengaluru.

Mr. Prajwal, 33, left India on the night of April 26 after casting his vote at Hassan, from where he is contesting for a second term in the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Prajwal has maintained that his "trip to Germany was prescheduled and no case was registered against him when he left India".

In a post on X on May 1, he said that his advocate had sought seven days for him to appear for the investigation. While abroad, he had moved the court for anticipatory bail, which was denied.

On May 27, Mr. Prajwal released a video from an undisclosed location stating that he would return to India for the probe, and would arrive on May 31.

He boarded a flight from Munich on May 30 and landed in Bengaluru on Friday. Upon completion of the immigration processes, he was handed over to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, after which the SIT arrested him outside the airport.

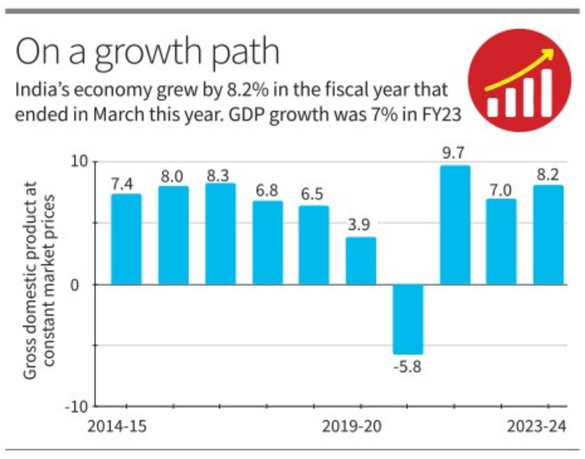
HC ISSUES NOTICE
» PAGE 6

At a standstill

People wait to board a local train at the Dadar railway station in Mumbai on Friday evening as the Central Railway's 63-hour 'mega block', which commenced at Thursday midnight, affected 161 train services. This 'mega block', which will conclude on Sunday, will facilitate the extension and widening projects at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in south Mumbai and the Thane station. EMMANUAL YOGINI

GDP growth surges to 8.2% on manufacturing gains

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for FY24 is estimated to have grown by a faster-than-projected 8.2%, quickening from FY23's 7% pace, the National Statistical Office's (NSO) provisional estimates released on Friday show. The NSO had in its first advance estimates projected real GDP growth for FY24 at 7.3%.

"Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 9.6% in FY24 over the growth rate of 14.2% in FY23," the NSO said, adding that real Gross Value Added (GVA) had likely expanded by 7.2% in FY24, faster than FY23's 6.7%.

"This GVA growth has been mainly due to significant growth of 9.9% in the manufacturing sector in FY24" over a 2.2% contraction in FY23, and mining and quarrying's growth of 7.1% in FY24 over 1.9% in FY23, the NSO explained.

Real GVA and GDP growth in Q4 were estimated at 6.3% and 7.8%, respectively.

"While the high-frequency indicators were showing healthy economic momentum, nevertheless the sharp jump in GDP growth... for FY24 has come as a positive surprise," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist, CareEdge Ratings.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

WhatsApp chatbot for snakebite awareness launched

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Humane Society International, India has launched a WhatsApp chatbot in Mysuru to educate citizens about snakes and snakebite prevention.

"The automated chatbot, accessed via a QR code or messaging "Hi" to +91 9154190472, disseminates engaging, visual content in English or Kannada, making it easy to understand. Through the initiative launched with The Liana Trust, both the organisations aim to reach at least a lakh users this year in Mysuru to foster coexistence with snakes and to prevent snakebites," a release by HSI India said.

SIT set up to probe multi-crore scam in Valmiki corporation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok speaking to reporters in Shivamogga on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The State government on Friday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Additional Director-General of Police, Manish Kharbikar of the Economic Offences division of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to probe the alleged multi-crore scam in the government-run Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

The other members of the SIT are IPS officers Shivaprakash Devaraju (DCP, South traffic division, Bengaluru), Hariram Shankar (Superintendent of Police-Intelligence), and Raghavendra K. Hegde (Superintendent of Police, CID, Bengaluru).

P. Chandrashekaran, 48, working as accounts superintendent at the corporation's office in Bengaluru, ended his life at his residence in Shivamogga on Sunday, alleging the role of senior officers in the diversion of the corporation's funds.

The BJP has been demanding the resignation of Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare B. Nagendra, stating that death note also implicated him.

Criminal cases

With regard to the death of the employee of the corporation, the order said criminal cases had been registered at Vinoba Nagar police station in Shivamogga and the High Grounds police station in Benglauru. The SIT would handle both criminal cases and probe the alleged diversion of funds from the corporation, the order said.

Earlier, the government had asked the CID to conduct the probe into the death of the corporation employee and the alleged financial irregularities there.

High command briefed

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar are believed to have briefed the high command on the alleged diversion of funds from the corporation. The government is likely to take a decision on the matter based on the opinion given by the high command, according to sources.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Gasperini: the trend-bucking, stereotype-busting tactical mastermind

The 66-year-old Atalanta manager is proving that imaginative ideas are not the preserve of the young visionaries coveted by big clubs. And in contrast to the image of the cliched Italian manager, he is a proponent of vibrant attacking football

GETTY IMAGES

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

Even as some of the biggest football clubs pursue the hottest young managers – Vincent Kompany, Enzo Maresca, Kieran McKenna – ready to risk millions on their vision and philosophy of play, an old grandmaster continues to show how it's done with limited resources.

At 66, Gian Piero Gasperini is having perhaps the finest of his 21 seasons as coach, his eighth at Atalanta which continues to defy football gravity as a low-budget provincial club in the hotbed of northern Italy. In the Europa League final last week, Atalanta stopped Bayer Leverkusen's shot at European football immortality and lifted its first top-level trophy for 61 years.

Silverware in a golden era

And as a sprightly Gasperini – his black rain jacket zipped high against the Dublin evening chill – danced with his players and staff, the enormity of the achievement dawned not just on the thousands clad in blue and black that had made the trip from northern Italy but also on neutral fans and connoisseurs of attacking football.

The side from Bergamo, in the foothills of the Italian Alps, has long lived in the shadow of nearby giants AC and Inter Milan. But it has enjoyed a golden era under Gasperini, reaching the Champions League on four occasions, and now has silverware to show for it. It was a rare victory for the underdog in a sport usually dominated by the clubs with the deepest pockets.

"To win it with Atalanta is perhaps one of the football fairytales that rarely gives scope for meritocracy," said Gasperini. "There's still room for ideas, it doesn't always come down to cold hard numbers or super leagues but shows teams without huge budgets can achieve big things.

> If you don't win without danger, there's no glory to your triumph. The fans always ask us for the shirt to be soaked in sweat, and that's one thing we must have at a minimum

"We needed to be attacking. You can't just defend in matches like this. Everyone was extraordinary. The way we did it was the most important thing, we deserved it without a shadow of a doubt. We're so happy because to win the Europa League is a huge achievement for us."

The 3-0 win over Leverkusen, which was unbeaten in 51 games in all competitions until then, featured Gasperini's football ideas at their finest. In contrast to the image of the cliched defence-minded Italian manager, the 66-year-old coaches a fluid-passing attacking style.

Gasperini's teams, almost always set up in some variation of a 3-4-3, play out from the back, look to progress the ball with quick combinations and press to regain the ball when they lose it. The result is easy-on-the-eye football in attack and team-first defence.

"They play one against one on the whole pitch," said Leverkusen striker Patrik Schick. "Wherever you move, you have one defender behind you, so they don't leave you the space to breathe."

Many of Gasperini's Atalanta sides since 2016 have showcased cutting-edge tactics. Elite, imaginative coaching is one of the ways in which Gasperini has attempted to close the gap to Italy and Europe's wealthiest clubs – he looks to compensate for Atalanta's relative lack of financial resources with a richness of ideas.

Reinforcing ideas

Gasperini drives his players incredibly hard in training, ensuring the ideas are ingrained and matches feel easier as a result. As he once said: "Defending makes you invincible, but if you want to win, you must attack. This sums up the spirit and mentality I want my team to have. The identity you create in a team must always be reinforced. You must grow and improve, day by day, because if you do not improve, you are done. Those who stop have lost."

Atalanta's Europa League win was also significant because he outwitted Xabi Alonso, who, along with Arsenal's Mikel Arteta, is the most prominent example of the gamble on a young manager that has paid off. Alonso has led Leverkusen to an instant classic football story in his first full season in the job at age 42, ending Bayern Munich's monopoly of the Bundesliga.

But Gasperini had Alonso's measure, his Atalanta looking far slicker than the German league champion. The Italian mastermind's willingness to take risks with an attacking brand of football earned Alonso's admiration. "We know for five years that Atalanta has had a very clear identity. It's a team that continues to press but they are not always gung-ho," Alonso said. "He has a clear plan and has built up a team with strong mentality and high quality."

> I never believed one trophy would change our journey — the run we have been on is worth more than one piece of silverware. [The Europa League triumph] is the result of the journey

Gasperini said Atalanta's "world has changed" since he took over eight years ago. Back then just surviving in Serie A was a success. The club had not played in a European competition for the 25 previous seasons before he was appointed. Now, continental football is commonplace, and Atalanta has enjoyed some of its finest ever nights this season, knocking out European giants Liverpool and Marseille on the road to Dublin before scripting a triumph for the ages.

In reconstructing Atalanta from a relegation candidate to a team that can win the Europa League or reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League (2019-20), Gasperini has overseen a revolution that has not always attracted the praise it deserves. Both club and manager don't mind flying under the radar; it's one of many traits they have in common.

Gasperini, who lasted just five games at Inter Milan in 2011, has benefited from Atalanta's trust. It stood by him when he lost four of his first five league games in charge in 2016 and he has rewarded it with some of its most memorable years. "The club believed in me when I wasn't highly rated and that's a great example for football," he said.

Polishing diamonds

The performances Gasperini has extracted from undervalued players and the success of the club's academy have helped finance the renovation of Atalanta's Gewiss Stadium and laid the foundation for a secure future. Europa League final hero Ademola Lookman is not the only rough diamond Gasperini has polished to turn Atalanta into a force in Serie A and on the continent.

Gasperini's savvy recruitment and excellent coaching are evident right across the front three – Lookman has formed a fearsome attacking trident with Charles De Ketelaere and Gianluca Scamacca, transformed after their difficult spells at AC Milan and West Ham respectively.

Given Gasperini's accomplishments, it's not surprising that he is drawing other suitors. His future has been the hot topic in Bergamo, with persistent rumours of talks with Napoli, which had a dismal campaign as defending champion.

Gasperini had described Napoli as a beautiful woman tempting him away from his wife, but after the 3-0 win over Torino last weekend, he confirmed that he plans to stay at the club, much to the relief of the fans.

"I am tied to Atalanta and will continue to be," Gasperini said. "I am faithful."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	37	9,960	18
2	Jannik Sinner	22	8,770	19
3	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,300	17
4	Alexander Zverev	27	6,305	25
5	Daniil Medvedev	28	6,295	19
6	Andrey Rublev	26	4,700	24
7	Casper Ruud	25	4,425	24
8	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,885	24
9	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,700	25
10	Grigor Dimitrov	33	3,555	21
11	Alex de Minaur	25	3,490	25
12	Taylor Fritz	26	2,980	25
13	Holger Rune	21	2,700	23
14	Tommy Paul	27	2,655	24
15	Ben Shelton	21	2,500	24

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 95 ▼ 1 spot

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 329 ▲ 14 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	11,695	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	26	8,138	17
3	Coco Gauff	20	7,638	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	5,673	19
5	Jessica Pegula	30	4,550	22
6	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,143	18
7	Maria Sakkari	28	3,980	24
8	Qinwen Zheng	21	3,945	21
9	Ons Jabeur	29	3,748	23
10	Danielle Collins	30	3,472	20
11	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,318	23
12	Madison Keys	29	3,283	16
13	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,258	24
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,983	25
15	Jasmine Paolini	28	2,898	27

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 278 ▼ 2 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 323 ▼ 7 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	38	28	7	3	96	34	62	91
2	Arsenal	38	28	5	5	91	29	62	89
3	Liverpool	38	24	10	4	86	41	45	82
4	Aston Villa	38	20	8	10	76	61	15	68
5	Tottenham	38	20	6	12	74	61	13	66
6	Chelsea	38	18	9	11	77	63	14	63
7	Newcastle	38	18	6	14	85	62	23	60
8	Man. United	38	18	6	14	57	58	-1	60
9	West Ham	38	14	10	14	60	74	-14	52
10	Crystal Palace	38	13	10	15	57	58	-1	49
11	Brighton	38	12	12	14	55	62	-7	48
12	Bournemouth	38	13	9	16	54	67	-13	48
13	Fulham	38	13	8	17	55	61	-6	47
14	Wolves	38	13	7	18	50	65	-15	46
15	Everton *	38	13	9	16	40	51	-11	40
16	Brentford	38	10	9	19	56	65	-9	39
17	N. Forest *	38	9	9	20	49	67	-18	32
18	Luton Town	38	6	8	24	52	85	-33	26
19	Burnley	38	5	9	24	41	78	-37	24
20	Sheffield	38	3	7	28	35	104	-69	16

* Everton deducted eight points and Forest deducted four points following breaches of the PL's Profitability and Sustainability Rules

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	38	29	7	2	89	22	67	94
2	AC Milan	38	22	9	7	76	49	27	75
3	Juventus	38	19	14	5	54	31	23	71
4	Atalanta	37	21	6	10	70	39	31	69
5	Bologna	38	18	14	6	54	32	22	68
6	Roma	38	18	9	11	65	46	19	63
7	Lazio	38	18	7	13	49	39	10	61
8	Fiorentina	37	16	9	12	58	44	14	57
9	Torino	38	13	14	11	36	36	0	53
10	Napoli	38	13	14	11	55	48	7	53
11	Genoa	38	12	13	13	45	45	0	49
12	Monza	38	11	12	15	39	51	-12	45
13	Verona	38	9	11	18	38	51	-13	38
14	Lecce	38	8	14	16	32	54	-22	38
15	Udinese	38	6	19	13	37	53	-16	37
16	Cagliari	38	8	12	18	42	68	-26	36
17	Empoli	38	9	9	20	29	54	-25	36
18	Frosinone	38	8	11	19	44	69	-25	35
19	Sassuolo	38	7	9	22	43	75	-32	30
20	Salernitana	38	2	11	25	32	81	-49	17

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	38	29	8	1	87	26	61	95
2	Barcelona	38	26	7	5	79	44	35	85
3	Girona	38	25	6	7	85	46	39	81
4	Atletico Madrid	38	24	4	10	70	43	27	76
5	Athletic Bilbao	38	19	11	8	61	37	24	68
6	Real Sociedad	38	16	12	10	51	39	12	60
7	Real Betis	38	14	15	9	48	45	3	57
8	Villarreal	38	14	11	13	65	65	0	53
9	Valencia	38	13	10	15	40	45	-5	49
10	Alaves	38	12	10	16	36	46	-10	46
11	Osasuna	38	12	9	17	45	56	-11	45
12	Getafe	38	10	13	15	42	54	-12	43
13	Celta Vigo	38	10	11	17	46	57	-11	41
14	Sevilla	38	10	11	17	48	54	-6	41
15	Real Mallorca	38	8	16	14	33	44	-11	40
16	Las Palmas	38	10	10	18	33	47	-14	40
17	Rayo Vallecano	38	8	14	16	29	48	-19	38
18	Cadiz	38	6	15	17	26	55	-29	33
19	Almeria	38	3	12	23	43	75	-32	21
20	Granada	38	4	9	25	38	79	-41	21

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	34	28	6	0	89	24	65	90
2	Stuttgart	34	23	4	7	78	39	39	73
3	Bayern	34	23	3	8	94	45	49	72
4	RB Leipzig	34	19	8	7	77	39	38	65
5	Dortmund	34	18	9	7	68	43	25	63
6	E. Frankfurt	34	11	14	9	51	50	1	47
7	Hoffenheim	34	13	7	14	66	66	0	46
8	Heidenheim	34	10	12	12	50	55	-5	42
9	Werder Bremen	34	11	9	14	48	54	-6	42
10	SC Freiburg	34	11	9	14	45	58	-13	42
11	FC Augsburg	34	10	9	15	50	60	-10	39
12	Wolfsburg	34	10	7	17	41	56	-15	37
13	Mainz	34	7	14	13	39	51	-12	35
14	M'gladbach	34	7	13	14	56	67	-11	34
15	Union Berlin	34	9	6	19	33	58	-25	33
16	Bochum	34	7	12	15	42	74	-32	33
17	Cologne	34	5	12	17	28	60	-32	27
18	Darmstadt	34	3	8	23	30	86	-56	17

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	859	919
2	Joe Root	824	923
3	Babar Azam	768	882
3	Daryl Mitchell	768	804
5	Steve Smith	757	947
6	Rohit Sharma	751	813
7	Yashasvi Jaiswal	740	740
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	739	783
9	Virat Kohli	737	937
10	Harry Brook	735	773

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	870	904
2	Josh Hazlewood	847	864
2	Jasprit Bumrah	847	881
4	Kagiso Rabada	834	902
5	Pat Cummins	820	914
6	Nathan Lyon	801	801
7	Ravindra Jadeja	788	899
8	James Anderson	739	903
9	Shaheen Afridi	733	836
10	Kyle Jamieson	729	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Harry Tector	746	767
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	David Warner	723	869
8	Pathum Nissanka	711	728
9	Dawid Malan	707	730
10	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727
3	Adam Zampa	686	695
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
6	Mohammad Nabi	656	657
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760
9	Trent Boult	643	775
10	Bernard Scholtz	642	642

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	788	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	769	875
4	Babar Azam	761	896
5	Aiden Markram	733	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Jos Buttler	711	724
8	Brandon King	704	687
9	Reeza Hendricks	696	674
10	Rilee Rossouw	668	915

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	722	746
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	797
3	Axar Patel	660	667
4	Maheesh Theekshana	659	684
4	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
6	Josh Hazlewood	654	806
7	Rashid Khan	645	816
8	Akeal Hosein	638	683
9	Reece Topley	636	662
10	Tabraiz Shamsi	635	821

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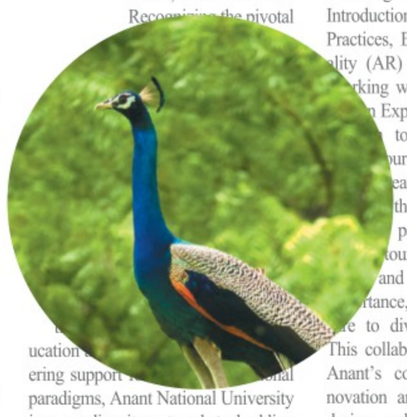


ANANT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
॥ प्रज्वालितो ज्ञानमयः प्रदीपः ॥

India's First DesignX University

Sanskardham Campus, Bopal-Ghuma-Sanand Road, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 382115

Anant National University, India's first DesignX University, is dedicated to training students to devise solutions for global problems through creative thinking. Our DesignX* way is unique in helping young designers develop a better understanding of the context we live in through community immersion, innovation and collaboration. The core of our pedagogy is sustainable design multiplied by a host of knowledge disciplines and technology to make problem solving impactful. Our multidisciplinary undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in design, architecture, climate action and visual arts harness the knowledge from various disciplines and traditional practices to integrate it with cutting-edge technology to address diverse challenges. * At Anant, design education is about multiplying design with experience and knowledge drawn from diverse disciplines, cultures and practices, making us India's first designX university. We employ an interdisciplinary approach with a multidisciplinary curriculum to create problem-solving tools.

Anant National University Concludes its three day International Symposium with a Resounding Success

Ahmedabad: Anant National University recently organised a three-day international symposium that brought together leading minds from the global architectural community to explore the future of architecture. In addition to paper presenters from various regions of India, the symposium featured international presenters hailing from Bangladesh, Canada, and Sri Lankan architect Channa Daswatte kicked off the event with a discourse on a Bill of Rights. Architect Heinrich Wolmarans from South Africa, in his keynote address, delved into the human dimension of design, emphasising the role of cultural responsiveness in contemporary architecture. On the third day, Bangladeshi architect Marina Tabassum discussed the impact of architecture on the healing processes of displacement and fostering dignity for individuals in transition. For the event, 40 presenters were selected through a double-blind review process to showcase their research papers. These scholars and practitioners delivered engaging presentations and shared insights on various aspects of architecture, offering valuable perspectives on current trends, challenges and innovations in the field. The paper presentations aligned with the nine identified themes exploring architecture's relation with climate, identity, inclusion, well-being, ecology, technology, context, society, and politics. Reflecting on the symposium's success, Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost of Anant National University, emphasised the University's commitment to encouraging dialogue and innovation in the field of architecture, ensuring that it remains accessible and responsive to the needs of all. Rajeev Kathpalia, Chair Professor at the School of Architecture and General Chair of the symposium, made invaluable contributions to the event, playing an important role in shaping the symposium's agenda and ensuring its success as a platform for meaningful discourse on architecture.

Anant School for Climate Action Opens Admissions to BTech in their Climate Change Programme

Ahmedabad 21 March 2024: Anant National University's Anant School for Climate Action, India's first climate school, announces the commencement of admissions for its four-year undergraduate programme - BTech in Climate Change. The last date for the early bird applications for the programme is 31 March 2024. The programme aims to equip students with the expertise to develop technology solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation through hands-on learning via live industry climate projects at the Climate Lab. It encompasses learning in eight domains of climate technology areas and offers students the flexibility to choose courses aligned with their interests in the final two semesters. Another highlight of the programme is the mandatory industry experience in the final semester, providing students with invaluable insights from industry professionals and academic mentors, thereby bridging the gap between theory and real-world implementation. The eligibility criteria for the programme includes Passing 10+2 examination with Physics/ Mathematics/ Chemistry/ Computer Science/ Electronics/ Information Technology/ Biology/ Informatics Practices/ Biotechnology/ Technical Vocational subject/ Agriculture/ Engineering Graphics/ Business Studies/ Entrepreneurship reserved category) in the above subjects. During the application process, a candidate's understanding of climate-related problems and solutions is evaluated through the details they provide in the application form. Shortlisted candidates go through a personal interview.

The University provides bridge courses in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry during the first and second semesters to help students from diverse backgrounds achieve the desired learning outcomes of the programme. To enhance experimental and holistic learning, the Anant School for Climate Action collaborates with multiple academic partners globally, including The Villars Institute and the Switzerland and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. It also collaborates with leading organizations committed to climate action, including Sustain Labs Paris, The Climate Reality Project Secretariat, London, International Chamber of Commerce Change (IofC), UK, Bharti Airtel and Shell.

Anant becomes the first university in India to conduct/offer design Entrance Examinations in Regional Languages: Gujarati, Bengali and Tamil.

Ahmedabad, 26th March 2024: Anant National University announces the commencement of the second round of the Design Entrance and Proficiency Test (ADEPT) for the university's online entrance test for the Bachelor of Design (B.Des) programme. Breaking new ground in the domain of design education, this round of ADEPT will be offered in regional languages: English, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and Tamil. This pioneering move marks the first instance in India where a design institution evaluates creativity and innovation aptitude in languages beyond the traditionally chosen English, showcasing Anant's commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunities for aspiring designers from diverse linguistic backgrounds. By expanding assessment options, Anant fosters inclusivity and democratizes access to design education, opening doors to a broader range of talent. The design entrance test is set to be conducted online on 07th April 2024. Registration is now open and will close on 31st March 2024 Mr. Ajay Piramal, President of Anant National University, said, "Design goes beyond language, and this opportunity for students to attempt ADEPT in any of the five languages is a true reflection of this philosophy. Students have the chance to showcase their talent and potential in a language they are most comfortable with." ADEPT goes beyond standardized evaluation methods by assessing a candidate's critical thinking, design

Anant National University offers a diverse array of programs, from undergraduate to doctoral levels. With architecture and circularity in design. Around 200 Anant students will participate in the event, taking part in 8 workshops developed to foster creative exploration and critical thinking.

In a world that is moving towards homogeneity, Anant celebrates and leverages heterogeneity through IDEA where designers from different parts of the world will collaborate with Indian designers and students at Anant. It's an attempt to build an inclusive culture and find solutions rooted in our traditions. Anant continuously strives to engage its students in experiential learning and help develop critical thinking and problem solvers. The pedagogical dynamic and academic partnership with prestigious students gain exposure as the University of Miami, Anant National University, announce learning, IsCool, the exciting summer students to explore fields and become educators from schools to the world of design. Scheduled from 27 May to 5 June 2024 at the Anant campus in Ahmedabad, the summer school promises an unforgettable journey of learning, creativity and the innovation. This full year, Anant-

Anant National University to Host IDEA: International Designers Educate at Anant

Ahmedabad: The Anant National University announces the launch of its highly anticipated design event IDEA: International Designers Educate at Anant, a unique initiative that inquires into the identity in an increasingly homogenised global culture under the theme 'Rediscovering Roots'. Scheduled from 26 April to 4 May 2024, IDEA will host a distinguished line-up of designers. This includes Prof Gjoko Muratovski from Deakin University Australia, Prof Peer Sathikh from the promises to make your summer cool with its Summer Design IsCool – a fun and interactive learning space that will spark your creativity and ignite your passion. More importantly, it will introduce you to the world of design.

Anant National University is India's first Design university, dedicated to training students to devise solutions for global problems with creative-critical thinking, multiplied by perspectives from a multidisciplinary and experiential curriculum. Design is a discipline that combines our creative skills with our critical thinking abilities to bring about innovative and transformative solutions. Given that the real purpose of schools and their education is to mould their students into problem solvers, it is imperative that young learners get introduced to the discipline of design as a practice. Design Thinking and inculcation amongst our young minds is strongly recommended by the National Education Policy 2020.

ABOUT SUMMER SCHOOL: The summer school on design at Anant will introduce school students and teachers to the world of design through hands-on modules on product, communication, interaction and sustainable fashion by eminent designers. There will be workshops on Design Thinking, hackathons and craft making among other activities.

WHAT IT OFFERS: The summer school is an immersive design experience offering Hands-On Workshops: Learn Design fundamentals and cutting-edge techniques, Inspiring Practitioners: Learn from Industry experts sharing insights and stories, Creative and Critical Thinking Skills: Develop and harmonise creative and critical thinking skills to explore new ideas, Portfolio Building: Create impressive projects to showcase the designer in you, Networking and Mentorship: Connect with designers, problem-solvers, impact-makers and mentors. Workshops and Sessions during the summer school will include Design Thinking , Typography and Layout, User Experience (UX) Design, 3D Modelling, Sustainable Design Practices, Product Design, Portfolio Building and Urban Design.

Future of Fashion - The Importance of Innovation in Sustainable Textile Design

By Assistant Professor and Head - Sustainable Fashion and Textile Design, School of Design.

Amid global environmental challenges, the fashion and textile industry stands at a crucial juncture. The need for sustainability has led to a reassessment of traditional consumption and mass production methods. It is vital to realign these practices with current needs, advocating for an eco-conscious fashion approach to secure a sustainable future. This is especially important in the wake of resource depletion, ongoing climate change and waste generated throughout the production and consumption processes. However, new technologies and approaches have emerged to pave the way for a sustainable future, a silver lining the industry can pin its hope on. To understand this transformative nature, it would make sense to throw some light on the trendiest industry terms and familiarise ourselves with processes that will take centre stage in the future.

FUTURE-READY: This refers to the integration of technology and fashion in the form of e-textiles or smart textiles. These textiles offer a multitude of possibilities for interactive and functional garments. E-textiles can be made from simple conductive fibres or complex microprocessors and sensors. Smart textiles can change colour or shape in response to environmental factors like heat or light. They can also monitor vital signs such as heart rate and breathing or control devices through touch or gesture. Some textile applications include luminous and interactive clothing and sportswear.

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING: Additive manufacturing involves using PLA and resin, the most commonly used materials for building layers into a structure that can be formed into a 3D garment. The introduction of 3D printing into the fashion industry has several advantages. It allows for the creation of intricate designs while reducing water consumption, enables the production of custom-fit clothing without requiring a large inventory and promotes inclusive garments for various body types. The Dutch fashion innovator Iris van Herpen is a pioneer in 3D fashion printing, using this technology to create unique shapes, movements and material blends that would not be possible with traditional manufacturing methods. It is worth noting that she often combines additive manufacturing with other material processes.

Innovation in Alternative Materials: Exploring alternative materials with minimal impact on soil yield is paving the way for eco friendly fashion that respects our planet's resources. In India, Malai is a new material made from sustainable bacterial cellulose grown on agricultural waste from the coconut industry in southern India. Since Malai offers a leather-like texture and durability, it is used in fashion accessories. Additionally, it also offers a biodegradable and vegan alternative. Malai is committed to sustainable practices by incorporating natural fibres like banana stem fibre and sisal to foster a circular economy. Malai decomposes quickly, breaking down within 90-120 days.

RECYCLING AND REPAIRING: The resources are limited and finite. Hence, recognising the importance of repairing our garments not only promotes sustainability but also reinforces the idea of cherishing our belongings and reducing waste. The textile industry is embracing the circular economy to cut waste and extend product lifespans. Unlike aluminium cans, recycling fabrics is complex due to limited resources and infrastructure. However, brands the like Okhai have introduced take-back initiatives like Relove for used clothing to ensure better circularity. Some manufacturers are even turning textile waste into products like insulation and packaging. Despite multiple challenges, the demand for textile recycling is growing. The discussion on repairing is making a comeback with several repair cafe initiatives teaching and promoting sustainability.

Supply Chain Transparency: Transparency in the supply chain is crucial for ensuring ethical practices, fair treatment of workers and traceability of materials from source to product. It empowers consumers to make informed choices. There is a growing movement towards transparency, with companies adopting technologies like blockchain to track their supply chains. This allows consumers to verify the authenticity of claims and ensure that products are ethically sourced and produced. From a purist perspective, handmade textiles carry a unique value that stems from craftsmanship, heritage and sustainability. Embracing these traditions adds depth and authenticity to modern designs. Implementing environmentally friendly practices in traditional textile processes is essential for minimising the industry's carbon footprint and embracing sustainability at every stage. Overall, the future of fashion relies on rethinking and realigning traditional methods for sustainability

Anant National University Spearheads Innovation in Education with a Multidisciplinary Approach

Srinagar, 24th April 2024: Anant National University, India's first DesignX University based in Ahmedabad, aims to reshape the educational landscape in India through its array of multidisciplinary interdisciplinary research and learning opportunities, with courses spanning design, architecture, climate action, and visual arts. Recognizing the pivotal

school program aimed at immersing students and educators in the transformative realm of design. This initiative seeks to not only expand awareness of the diverse range of design courses and career opportunities but also to enrich the learning journey through immersive experiences. Through comprehensive programs, participants will gain invaluable insights into the multifaceted world of design, empowering them to embark on impactful educational and professional pathways.

At the heart of Anant National University's approach is the DesignX* methodology, a distinctive framework that fosters holistic learning by immersing young designers in their communities, fostering innovation, and promoting collaboration. Central to its pedagogical approach is the integration of sustainable design principles with a myriad of knowledge domains and cutting-edge technologies, empowering students to address real-world challenges with impactful solutions. Offering undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs in design, architecture, climate change, and visual arts, Anant provides fellowship initiatives and Built Environment Action, Anant stands at the forefront of sustainability into education, with a branch of Anant Center (ASCA), Indore, the university provides necessary skills to fill gap in climate and sustainable development opportunities. The academic innovation at Anant National University is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and diversity among its student body. The introduction of ADEPT (Anant Design Entrance and Proficiency Test) in regional languages such as Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali, and Tamil reflects the university's commitment to providing equal opportunities to students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Central to Anant's success is its exceptional faculty, comprising distinguished scholars and industry practitioners renowned for their expertise and contributions to their respective fields. The university's partnerships with leading industry players and academic institutions worldwide, namely – the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Miami, Pratt Institute, Boston Architectural College, and MIT Solve, among others, further enhance its academic offerings and provide students with invaluable internship and scholarship opportunities. Anant National University's dedication to excellence extends beyond the classroom, with initiatives like the ARAMBH incubation centre nurturing entrepreneurial talent and Various student labs such as Makerspace (a collaborative workshop area open to students), the Climate Lab (entirely committed to the university's values- it is sustainable, carbon neutral and powered by renewable energy) and tinkering lab (a workspace for students to learn, experiment and develop their ideas into prototypes) -fostering innovation and hands-on learning experiences. As a trailblazer in sustainable education, the university is committed to providing a holistic educational experience that prepares students to thrive in an ever evolving world.

Anant National University with Art & Craft Teachers from Bihar Bal Bhavan Kilkari on Skills

Anant National University, India's first DesignX University based in Ahmedabad, has successfully conducted a pioneering training program for art and craft teachers from Bihar Bal Bhavan Kilkari. The program was aimed at enhancing the pedagogical skills of art and craft teachers and trainers. Held in February 2024 at Anant's campus, the programme was led by Prof Amitabh Pandey and a dedicated team of senior faculty members from various disciplines. The workshop catered to seven art teachers from Kilkari who came from the Patna, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Munger districts of Bihar. The primary objective was to introduce contemporary practices in art and design, thereby elevating the quality of pedagogy at Kilkari - Bihar Bal Bhawan. During the workshop, the participants engaged different activities covering various facets of visual arts and design including World of Art and Design, Introduction to Contemporary Art Practices, Exploring Augmented Reality (AR) & Virtual Reality (VR), Working with Glass and Metal, Toy Exploration, Graphics Design: Introduction to Execution, Understanding Colour, Composition, and Text Design, Creativity and Innovation. Beyond the classroom and studio sessions, participants also went for a heritage tour and visited local art galleries and places of architectural significance, enriching their exposure to diverse artistic expressions. This collaborative effort underscored Anant's commitment to foster innovation and excellence in art and design education. By equipping educators with contemporary tools and practices, the programme empowered them to inspire the next generation of creative minds.

A BG-BGE

GETTY IMAGES

‘Williamson, Kohli, Smith, Babar, Warner — my biggest challenges as a bowler’

In this freewheeling conversation, South Africa quick Lungi Ngidi talks about his favourite cricketers, his stunning Test debut against India six years ago, the Test cricket vs. SA20 situation and what playing for CSK after growing up supporting the franchise felt like

INTERVIEW

Lungi Ngidi

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Lungi Ngidi sizzled on his Test debut. The quick took six for 39 in the second innings for South Africa in the second Test against India at Centurion in early 2018. Injuries may have marred his career since then, but he remains one of the key bowlers for the Proteas, for whom he has claimed 204 wickets in international cricket across formats. Excerpts from Ngidi’s interview with *The Hindu*:

South Africa has a great tradition of producing quality fast bowlers. Who were the pacers that you wanted to emulate, growing up?

Makhaya Ntini was definitely one. You know, he is my idol. He has also coached me. I had gone to a camp for Under-15 or 16, and he was there. And he gave me a lot of tips there. I have also admired Shaun Pollock, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel and Vernon Philander. I was fortunate enough to play with some of these guys as well. So, I think one day when I retire, I can look back at my career and say, I think I did all right.

> Sharing a training room with someone like M.S. Dhoni meant a lot to me. He looks after himself and his players well

How has it been bowling alongside Kagiso Rabada all these years?

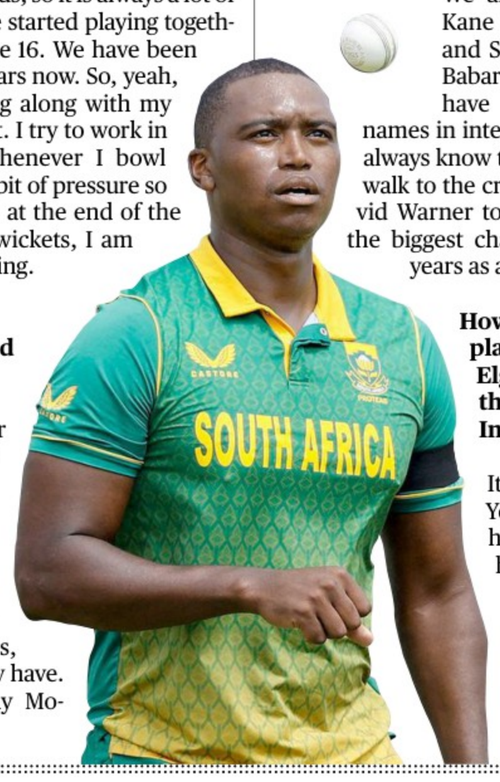
KG is one of my best friends, so it is always a lot of fun playing with him. We started playing together since, I think, we were 16. We have been playing together for 11 years now. So, yeah, basically it is like playing along with my brother. So I enjoy it a lot. I try to work in partnership with KG whenever I bowl with him and to create a bit of pressure so he can take wickets. But at the end of the day, if I am getting the wickets, I am not going to be complaining.

Which Indian pace bowlers have impressed you?

The most impressive for me has been Mohammed Siraj. When he started, he showed a lot of promise and then he has just gotten better and better over the years. I have got a lot of respect for other Indian seamers, for the skill level that they have. I love watching the way Mohammed Shami bowls. And Umesh Yadav has always been one of my favourites.

The toughest batters you have bowled to across formats?

We all know the big three – Kane Williamson, Virat Kohli and Steve Smith. Then there is Babar Azam as well. Those guys have obviously made their names in international cricket, and you always know that when you watch them walk to the crease. I would also add David Warner to the list. They have been the biggest challenges for me over the years as a bowler.



How do you look back at playing along with Dean Elgar, who retired after the Test series against India?

It was a very sad moment. You know, I love Dean. I have spent a lot of time with him. We played together in our franchise team, too. When I first started playing international cricket, you know, he showed me the ropes and he told me what international cricket was about. So, I am going to miss him a lot. And he has had a beautiful career, especially as an opener for South Africa. I think he is only second to Graeme Smith in our country as an opener. That is a great record.

Many senior South African players like you could not go to New Zealand for the last Test series because its dates were clashing with those of SA20...

It is a bit sad that the Test series was affected by SA20. But you know, that is the way the calendar works these days. We play so much cricket and so much has been invested into our SA20 that we sort of understand as players.

How important do you think SA20 is for South African cricket?

I think it is going to give a lot of players opportunities to be seen on the international stage. It also helps us get better with T20 cricket. It is growing the pool of players; you have seen players like Gerald Coetzee, Nandre Burger, Marco Jansen and Tristan Stubbs. And that makes it easier for the older guys, who could get some rest sometimes.

Despite being one of the stronger sides over the last several years, South Africa isn’t playing that many Tests these days.

I would love to play a lot more Test cricket. It is my favourite format. It is the toughest form of cricket as well. I think that is where you improve yourself as a cricketer. It would be lovely if I could get to play more Tests for South Africa. I think the situation could improve over the years.

You had a splendid Test debut, against India at Centurion, in 2018; you dismissed Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul, and were the Player-of-the-Match.

To be honest, that is a moment I will cherish forever because I think it actually started my career. It was after that that I was picked for the IPL. That is something I will forever be grateful for. As for getting the wickets of batters like Kohli and Rahul, that was something I wanted to do, though I hadn’t dreamt of that. Our bowling at that time also had Morne, Kagiso and Vernon. When Dale got injured, I got an opportunity, and I had big shoes to fill. I think I did all right on my debut, becoming Man-of-the-Match.

How was it playing for Chennai Super Kings?

I have really enjoyed my journey at the IPL. I played for the team that I had always supported. You know I grew up supporting Chennai. My dream was to play for CSK. In my first season, we ended up winning the title.
Everything happened so quickly in a short span of time in my career. Winning the title for CSK was great but for me the biggest thing was being able to play with guys that I grew up watching. And sharing a training room with someone like M.S. Dhoni meant a lot to me. He looks after himself and his players well. I have good relationships with all the guys I played with at CSK – Ravindra Jadeja, Murali Vijay, Dwayne Bravo, Faf du Plessis, Suresh Raina...

What interests you besides cricket?

I love to spend time with my friends, my family, people who are close to me. And I enjoy trying to learn new things. I play instruments, you know. I play a bit of piano. I am not really good, but just to kill some time when I am not playing cricket.

Any favourite musicians?

I am a big fan of Kid Cudi.

GAME THEORY

Lethal sharpshooters: England and Germany

With the dust settling on Europe’s top four football leagues and the eyes beginning to turn to the Euros, we take a look at the highest goal-scorers in 2023-24, beginning, this week, with the Premier League and the Bundesliga:

PREMIER LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

Player	Club	Appearances	xG	Goals
Erling Haaland	Man City	31	30.94	27
Cole Palmer	Chelsea	33	17.88	22
Alexander Isak	Newcastle	30	22.06	21
Dominic Solanke	Bournemouth	38	20.47	19
Ollie Watkins	Aston Villa	37	20.06	19
Phil Foden	Man City	35	11.28	19
Mohamed Salah	Liverpool	32	22.17	18
Son Heung-Min	Tottenham	35	12.98	17
Bukayo Saka	Arsenal	35	16.23	16
Jarrod Bowen	West Ham	34	13.04	16
Jean-Philippe Mateta	Crystal Palace	35	11.09	16

BUNDESLIGA TOP SCORERS

Player	Club	Appearances	xG	Goals
Harry Kane	Bayern	32	32.06	36
Serhou Guirassy	Stuttgart	28	22.14	28
Lois Openda	Leipzig	34	22.04	24
Deniz Undav	Stuttgart	30	15.89	18
Maximilian Beier	Hoffenheim	33	12.52	16
Andrej Kramaric	Hoffenheim	30	12.07	15
Ermedin Demirovic	Augsburg	33	15.02	15
Benjamin Sesko	Leipzig	31	8.02	14
Victor Boniface	Leverkusen	23	17.35	14
Donyell Malen	Dortmund	27	10.49	13

NOTE: XG IS EXPECTED GOALS, A METRIC DESIGNED TO MEASURE THE PROBABILITY OF A SHOT RESULTING IN A GOAL | SOURCE: WHOSCORED.COM

PICTURE THIS

The epic quest

In this photograph, the United States’ Read Ziegler competes in the cycling segment of the recent 2024 Intermountain Health IRONMAN 70.3 North American Championship in Utah.

The race debuted as the North American Championship a decade ago and has since grown in popularity, with some observers even describing it as one of “the most iconic races triathletes can compete in”.

The course, which stretches 70 miles through the gorgeous desert landscape of southern Utah, is one of the race’s main attractions, drawing athletes from all across the world.

The terrain and the scenery, which include stunning views of the surrounding red rock canyons, evoke a sense of the epic — it’s no wonder the race’s official website describes the venue as “a land carved by ancient seas”.

Athletes swim, bike, and run through the mixed terrain in a gruelling test of endurance — or, as the official website puts it: “In a land sculpted by persistence and determination, athletes will navigate a path through two iconic state parks, basalt lava fields, and a fragile desert reserve.”

2,344 storm-water drain encroachments cleared in two years: BBMP

There are a total of 4,316 such cases, according to data shared by the civic body

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) which has been carrying out the anti-encroachment drive, has removed 2,344 storm-water drain encroachments in the city till May 20. According to the latest data shared by the civic body, there are a total of 4,316 encroachments.

With 1,726 encroachments, Mahadevapura has topped the table and so far, officials have been successful in clearing 1,203 in the last two years. The data shows that 523 encroachments are pending removal and the issue of about 97 encroachments are in the court. The BBMP's legal cell is also working to resolve the cases to continue with the drive.

About 3,182 encroachments are old encroachments and 1,134 are new ones which are marked between August 28, 2023 and May 20, 2024. The data reveals that the BBMP has not removed even a single newly marked encroachment. A total of 1,972 are pending for removal. A BBMP official said the civic body was working on a war footing against the razed structures sitting on the drains. These encroachments are the major source of flooding in the city. As Mahadevapura has the highest number of encroachments, the zone has more flood-prone areas.

A file photo of a BBMP anti-encroachment drive in Mahadevapura zone.

In numbers

Total number of SWD encroachments 4,316	Encroachments cleared so far 2,344	Pending 1,972	Encroachments pending for removal after resolving court cases 1,785
Total number of SWD-related cases pending in courts 187			

The official further said that matters pending before the courts are also a challenge for the BBMP in its pursuit of making the city encroachment-free. He said, according to the data compiled by the storm-water department, about 187 drain encroachments are pending before the courts, of which 151 are old and 36 are new ones. The BBMP has successfully resolved 1,785 cases but the civic body is yet to remove these encroachments.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath told *The Hindu* that with the sole focus of removing encroachments, the civic body had cleared many. "This has resulted in a reduction in the number of flood-prone areas. For instance, at Anugraha Layout after drain work the layout has become flood-free," he added.

Congress sounds civic poll bugle, asks party workers to form new panels

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

An elected council-less Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally got a shot at elections as the Congress leadership has directed its office-bearers and ticket aspirants to start working at the booth level.

With Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on May 21 asking party workers to prepare for local body elections, there is finally hope that polls for the BBMP, which has been without a council for the last four years, will be held this year.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has remained without an elected council for the last four years. FILE PHOTO

Booth-level committees
According to G.C. Chandrashekar, Rajya Sabha member who is also in charge of the Bengaluru division of the party, the Congress is moving in the direction of conducting elections. "We have started holding meetings at every level and for the first time we will be forming a committee to address the grievances related to guarantee schemes," Mr. Chandrashekar said.

Door-to-door visits
He informed about the committees that are a part of the local body election strategy and said these panels would be formed at every booth. The party is in the process of finalising a name for the panels. The members of these panels will make door-to-door visits to talk about not just the guarantee schemes but also other programmes of the State as well as hear out grievances. In Bengaluru, these committees will be formed within three months.

Mr. Chandrashekar said the party had realised that the court may direct the government to hold elections and the workers need to be fully prepared. He added that in the meetings which were held at different levels in the Bengaluru division, the BBMP election was discussed.

Awareness drive
Abdul Wajid, a former councillor and Bengaluru North district Congress president, said, "The leadership has asked the aspirants to start working at the booth level in view of elections. This time, the candidates will be selected based on performance at the booth level.

Mr. Wajid said the workers have been asked to spread awareness of the five flagship schemes in every house in the city and the aspirants have already swung into action.

A former BJP councillor who did not wish to be named said the recent statement of Mr. Shivakumar hints at the election and the BJP should also be ready for polls. The government's plan to conduct the polls is a good sign and most of the former councillors of the BJP are also happy with this development, he added.

Konkani Utsav to be held in city tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Konkani speaking people from across Karnataka will come together on Sunday and celebrate Konkani-Utsav 2024 at King's Court, Palace Grounds, here.

Businessmen, industrialists, educationists, artists, and professionals in various fields have decided to hold the Konkani Utsav to provide a platform for interaction, promoting business, and showcasing the vibrant culture of the community.

Sona Ganesh Nayak, founder of 'Amchi Konkani' and proprietor of Sona Caterers, Bengaluru, said a large number of Konkani speaking people from all districts in Karnataka would participate in the third annual event. All arrangements, including food, have been made for the successful conduct of the programme, he said.

Dayananda Pai, chancellor of Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru, and chairman of Century Group, said, "The Konkani Utsav is aimed at promoting language, culture, and art of the community so that the next generation picks up the thread of our rich cultural heritage and traditions."

Though numerically small, the community, which runs several educational institutions and hospitals, contributed to the establishment of several banks, including Canara Bank and erstwhile SyndicateBank.

Mr. Pai said, "We wish to make this event a meeting ground for the youngsters of our community and enable them to find suitable life partners."

The day-long programme will have discussions on Konkani language, culture, and history, and entertainment programmes. MLA Vedavyas Kamath, MLC Pratap Simha Nayak, and Vishwa Konkani Kendra, Mangaluru, president Nandagopal Shenoy would grace the occasion. Speed painting artist Vilas Nayak and singer Ravindra Prabhu will be among the participants.

Gang of four from Tamil Nadu arrested for stealing bikes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

31 motorcycles and a 10 gram gold chain, together worth ₹45 lakh, recovered

The Parappana Agarahara police on Friday arrested a gang of four from Tamil Nadu who were coming to Bengaluru to commit thefts and recovered 31 motorcycles and a 10 gram gold chain, together worth ₹45 lakh, from them.

The accused are allegedly habitual offenders having a POCSO case and a robbery case pending against them. They are from Vellore in Tamil Nadu. The accused, according to the police, would come to the city in a cab and move around residential localities to identify bikes parked outside houses.

The accused would then break the hand locks and ride away, crossing the border area to reach their home town. They would then sell the stolen bikes at throwaway prices and use the money for vices for a few days before coming back to the city again to commit the crime, a police officer said.

Based on a bike theft case, the police stepped up vigil at check-posts and intercepted two of the accused who were allegedly caught red-handed. Based on their confession, the police arrested two more people and recovered stolen bikes that were without documents from rural areas in Tamil Nadu, including in Gudiyattam, Madhanur, and Sengundram, and also from some villages along the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. With their arrest, the police have cracked a chain-snatching case where the accused had used a stolen bike and robbed 10 g gold chain from a woman.

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APPEAL

Mr. Mangesh Krishnarao Jumde, aged 57 years, Male (Hospital No. MH013418636) has been diagnosed with decompensated liver Cirrhosis. He will require regular and close followup. He has been completely evaluated and worked up for a liver transplant. He has been advocated to register with Jeevasarathakathe for a deceased donor liver graft. The estimate of a Deceased Donor Liver Transplantation is Rs 40 Lakhs. (Forty Lakhs)

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Response to Mango Mela at Lalbagh better this time

'The demand has been such that many farmers had to go back to their fields to bring more mangoes as the stocks they had brought were sold out'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Visitors at the annual Mango Mela at Lalbagh in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

After the dull response to the famous Mango Mela at Lalbagh last year, this year, farmers are happy as thousands of mango lovers are thronging the mela which began on May 24.

According to sources in the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation (KSMDMC), the demand has been such that many farmers had to go back to their fields in other districts to bring more mangoes as the fruits they had brought were sold out.

"The farmers sold around 10 tonnes of mangoes on the inaugural day. After that, on May 25, they sold around 36 to 38 tonnes of mangoes and on May 26, they sold around 45 tonnes. On weekdays, they have been selling 10 to 20 tonnes of mangoes," the source said.

"With the yield being less than usual by almost 70%, farmers are also bringing mangoes from their neighbouring fields to cater to the demand in Bengaluru," they added.

However, farmers said while the response to the mela has been good, they are finding it difficult to make profit due to wastage.

"If we sell unripe mangoes for ₹70 a kg in Srinivasapur in Kolar district, we sell fully ripe mangoes for around ₹120-130 a kg in Lalbagh. But, when we ripen the fruits, we lose 200 kg of fruit for every tonne as many mangoes rot away in the process. While we see a good number of customers turning up this year, we have not been able to make any profits," said Neelaturu Chinnappa Reddy, president, Kolar District Mango Growers' Association.

The Horticulture Department has also seen a slight increase in footfall at Lalbagh since the mela started. "We have been seeing around 2,000 to 2,500 visitors on weekdays and 3,500 to 4,000 on the weekend. We also have around 5,000 walkers visit Lalbagh every morning. Most of these visitors pay a visit to the mango mela," said G. Kusuma, Deputy Director (Lalbagh), Horticulture Department.

The mela is on till June 10.

Triphal Diversity Show attracts many

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The three-day event is showcasing 300 mango, 100 jackfruit, and 100 banana genotypes at the IIHR.

A crowd comprising farmers, researchers, professors, students, and horticulture enthusiasts thronged the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru, on Friday for the inaugural ceremony of the Triphal Diversity Show which showcased 300 mango, 100 jackfruit, and 100 banana genotypes in collaboration with ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirappalli.

Sanjay Kumar Singh, head of the Division of Fruits and Horticultural Technology, ICAR, threw light on the national and global implications of mango, jackfruit, and banana cultivation for the livelihoods of farmers who hail from different socio-economical backgrounds. He beckoned literate youth to cultivate interest in India's "aggressive market" that has great potential in South and Central Asia. He highlighted the importance of fresh fruits that hold a distinct place in India's social fabric and the necessity of exports and processing on the global market.

At the stalls set up at the three-day show, experts provided detailed explanations to visitors on the genetic variations that embedded the form and utility of the mangoes, bananas, and jackfruit. A jackfruit weighing 40 kg, called the Mahapathari, and mangoes derived from the agricultural phenomena of polyembryonic seeds (the formation of more than one plant from a single seed) garnered curiosity and interest.

There were four mango stalls, mainly selling Dharwad alphonsos, and a jackfruit stall. "We will increase our jackfruit stock based on demand," said an official from the IIHR as people were keen to grab jackfruit varieties at a low price.

Two memorandums of understanding (MoU) were exchanged between the IIHR, C-DAC, and a Bengaluru-based entrepreneur alongside the release of two publications *Livelihood for the Unreached and Marginalised* and *Souvenirs*, during the inaugural event. Seven farmers were awarded with the honour of "custodian farmers" for their efforts in conserving mango, jackfruit, and banana genotypes.

NIMHANS bags WHO's Nelson Mandela award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy receiving the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion in Geneva.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has conferred the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, with the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024.

The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by WHO in 2019, recognises individuals, institutions and/or governmental or non-governmental organisations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

Validation of legacy

NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy, who received the award at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, on Friday said, "This award is not only a recognition of our past and present achievements but also a validation to the enduring legacy and vision that has guided NIMHANS since its inception. It reinforces our resolve to continue our mission of promoting mental health and well-being, making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve." Congratulating NIMHANS for the award, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said it is "a recognition of India's efforts in inclusive health care".

The accolade comes at a time when the institute is celebrating 50 years of its formation and the 70th anniversary of its precursor, the All India Institute of Mental Health.

"As NIMHANS marks the dual milestone, the award holds special significance, highlighting the institute's rich legacy and continuous evolution in the field of mental health and neurosciences," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

Ashok, Siddaramaiah trade charges over BMTC hiring drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An electric bus of the BMTC.

A heated exchange unfolded on social media platform X between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday. The dispute centred around employment practices within the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) for contract electric buses.

Mr. Ashok took to X to criticise the government for allegedly hiring youth from Kerala for BMTC electric bus driver positions. Quoting a news report, Mr. Ashok claimed, "The Congress-led State government has hired Kerala Malayali youth for the posts of BMTC electric bus driver through a private agency at a salary of ₹22,500, fooling Karnataka youth. CM Siddaramaiah, are there no job aspirants in Karnataka to recruit Kannadigas for BMTC bus driver posts? What kind of regional justice is it to let the BMTC organisation, which is run on the tax money of Kannadigas, give jobs to people from Kerala instead of using it to provide employment to the youth of Karnataka?"

In a swift rebuttal, Mr. Siddaramaiah refuted the allegations, stating that the recruitment in question was part of a Central scheme and not under the jurisdiction of the State government or the BMTC. He said, "If you want to find answers to your pains, sorrows, and sufferings about this Central government scheme which has led to unemployment for the youth of the State as well, please ask your honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and get answers. Don't show your ignorance through nonsense tweets."

Defending the State government's efforts, Mr. Siddaramaiah added, "As soon as our government came in, the recruitment process was initiated, and already 1,650 drivers/operators and 250 technical staff have been appointed. The recruitment process for the rest of the posts is in full swing. More than 500 letters of appointment on compassionate grounds have been issued to dependents of staff in four transport corporations during the last one year."

Mr. Ashok countered this by accusing the State government of deflecting blame. He stated, "You spend tens of crores of money and advertise in newspapers when these schemes are inaugurated. But if any defects are found, then you will put this towards the Central government."

The BMTC is operating buses under the gross cost contract model where the bus is not owned by the BMTC. Instead, they deploy conductors and compensate private companies at a fixed rate per kilometre. The private companies are responsible for providing drivers and maintaining the fleet. This model is implemented under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme of the Centre.

Woman found dead after row over husband eating extra egg

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The spouse has been charged with abetment of suicide

A 32-year-old woman allegedly ended her life following a row over her husband eating an extra egg, at Madanayakanahalli on Friday.

The deceased, Pooja, her husband Anil Kumar and two children aged three and four from Uttar Pradesh had come to the city to work as labourers. The couple left their other two children, aged seven and six, with their relatives in their home town. The couple were working as daily wage employees and living in a rented house at Machohalli for the last two years.

Frequent fights

According to the police, the couple used to have frequent fights. On Friday, after returning from work, Pooja prepared dinner while Anil ate two out of the three eggs from the curry she had made. Arguments ensued when Pooja questioned Anil's behaviour for which he reportedly told her that he is the owner of the house and should have the major share, according to the police.

Enraged, Pooja walked out of the house and ended his life. Anil raised an alarm and neighbours came to his help and rushed Pooja to hospital where the doctor declared her as brought dead.

The police charged Anil with abetment of suicide based on the probe that he was allegedly ill-treating and harassing his wife. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

On humanitarian grounds, the police have sought the help of Anil's relatives to take care of the two children.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

To whomsoever it may be concern

This is to declare that M/s Sai Sravanthi Infra Projects Pvt., Ltd, having its project at Sy No. 23, 22, 21/1, 21/2, 21/3, 124 & 125, Seegehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East taluk, Bangalore has been accorded Environmental Clearence Vide its No. SEIAA 3 CON 2020 dated 04.09.2020 from State Level Environment impact Assessment Authority – Karnataka for proposed Mixed Used development.

The copy of Environmental Clearance and the details of MoEFCC/SEIAA are available on the Website http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in

M/s Sai Sravanthi Infra Projects Pvt., Ltd, Sy No. 23, 22, 21/1, 21/2, 21/3, 124 & 125, Seegehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East taluk, Bangalore

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Important Dates

1.	Commencement of Online Registration and Choice Filling	May 31, 2024 (Friday) From 10:00 A.M.
2.	Last Date and Time for Online Registration (Registration Form Filling, Registration Fee Payment and Choice filling)	June 23, 2024 (Sunday) till 06:00 P.M.

For any further updates / notifications related to admission, candidates are advised to visit JAC website regularly.

Please visit https://jacdelhi.admissions.nic.in
HELP DESK: helpdesk.jacdelhi2024@dtu.ac.in

NOTE: -APPLICATION RECEIVED WITHOUT PRESCRIBED FEE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED.

Chairperson, JAC Delhi 2024

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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NO.PCB/273/SEO/MINES/EPH/2024-25/824 **DATE: 26/05/2024**

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. RPA Ferro Industries Private Limited has proposed to Expand the existing Sponge Iron Plant of capacity 100 TPD to 450 TPD (up-gradation of existing 1 x 100 TPD kiln to 1 x 150 TPD kiln and installation of 2 x 150 TPD) kiln and Installation of 7 MW Captive Power Plant (4.5 MW from WHRB & 2.5 MW from AFBC) and 5 MVA Arc furnace to produce Ferro Alloys in the existing total land Area of 19.725 Acres (KIADB land) at Plot No. 267 to 273 & 562 to 568, Sy. Nos. 75(P), 77(P), 79(P), 76 (P), 80(P), 84(P) of Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad District, Karnataka.

As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated:01.12.2009, the project Proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Reference letter (ToR) F.No. IA-J-11011/378/2023-IA-II(IND-I) dated:18.01.2024issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and request letter of the project proponent dated:06.02.2024and Regional Officer, Ballari letter dated:20.05.2024 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company& Address : M/s. RPA Ferro Industries Private Limited, Plot No.267 to 273 & 562 to 568, Sy. Nos. 75(P), 77(P), 79(P), 76 (P), 80(P), 84(P) of Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad District.

2. Location of proposed expansion project: Plot No. 267 to 273 & 562 to 568, Sy. Nos. 75(P),77(P),79(P), 76(P),80(P),84(P) of Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad District, Karnataka having total land Area of19.725 Acres.

3. Details of proposed expansion project: Proposed for Expansion of existing Sponge Iron Plant of capacity 100 TPD to 450 TPD(up-gradation of existing 1 x 100 TPD kiln to 1 x 150 TPD kiln and installation of 2 x 150 TPD kiln) and Installation of7 MW Captive Power Plant (4.5 MW from WHRB & 2.5 MW from AFBC) and 5 MVA Arc furnace to produce Ferro Alloys in the total land Area of 19.725 Acres.

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date: 02.07.2024 (Tuesday), Time: 11.00 A.M., Place: Project site, M/s. RPA Ferro Industries Private Limited, Plot No. 267 to 273 & 562 to 568, Sy. Nos. 75(P), 77(P), 79(P), 76 (P), 80(P), 84(P) of Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad District.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner,DharwadDistrict, Dharwad. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, DharwadDistrict, Dharwad. (c) District Industries Centre, DharwadDistrict, Dharwad. (d) Tahsildar Office,DharwadTaluk. (e) Gram Panchayath Office, BelurVillage, DharwadTaluk. (f) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Dharwad. (g) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate change, South Zonal Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. (h) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

Note : Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee **(Deputy Commissioner, Dharwad District, Dharwad)**. Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Member Secretary

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIJAYAKUMAR Damodaran, S/o Damodaran, R/o No.23, 2nd Cross, Sriramnagar, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560086 have changed my name to Vijaykumar Damodaran vide affidavit dt:15.05.2024 sworn before Notary C.K.Anupama, B'luru

I, SHEILA Rani, W/o L Santhanakrushnan, R/a 74 C, Janakiram Layout, 2nd Cross, Near Hennur Bande Extension, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to Mrs. L S Sheila Ranee, vide affidavit dt: 29.05.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru

I, PRAVEENA S/o Bhojaraja R/A, No.556, 10th Main Road, ITI Layout Mallathalli, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore -560056, Karnataka, have changed my name from Praveena to Praveena B vide affidavit dated:24-05-2024 before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Bengaluru-560010

I, JUMMI, S/o Kunchok, R/at #21 A, Village Tibetan Settlement Odeyarapalya, Kollegal, Chamrajnagar-571457, have changed my name from Jummi to Gyurme vide affidavit dated 31/05/2024 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru

I, Ex.No. 14596739N, Rank:Seppoy, Name: Nagaraj.P, Unit: EME, residing at No.50, New Model House Shivaraj Nagar, Oorgaum Post, K G F-563120, do hereby change my wife's name from Malar Vizhi.G to Malarvizhi and also change her Date of Birth from 27-08-1972 to 27-08-1973 as per the affidavit dated 30/05/2024 duly signed by S. Thangaraj, Notary K G F.

LOST & FOUND

I, MOHAMMED Tahir S/o S R Tabrez lost my Certifying Statement of Marks and Pass Certificate. I further declare that in spite of my best efforts I could not trace the same. The Index number of the Certifying Statement of Marks and Pass Certificate is 1211440/022 and Unique ID is 7379567, the year of passing is 2021 studied in ST. Mary's Public School, Queens Road, next to All India Congress Committee office, Bangalore. This is to notify the concerned authority (Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination New Delhi) and the public in general.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRL SEINIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT WANAPARTHY
O.S. 6 OF 2021
Between; Vakiti Venkataiah. plaintiff
And
Raja Hamsa Dasa @ C. Ramesh, Chairman, Sri Chaitanya Charitable Foundation, No 25, Seppings Road, 4th cross Bangalore.560001. Defendant.
To,
Raja Hamsa Dasa @ C. Ramesh, Chairman, Sri Chaitanya Charitable Foundation, No 25, Seppings Road, 4th cross Bangalore.560001.
Whereas, the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for recovery of money. You are hereby summoned to appear before the court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all questions on the **13th day of June 2024** at 10-30 O' 'lock in the forenoon to answer the claim, and further you are hereby directed to file on that day a written statement of you defense and to produce on the said day all documents in your possession or power upon which you base your defense.
TAKE notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
By order of the court
T. SRINIVASA CHARY ADVOCATE B,Sc., BL
WANAPARTHY-509103
TELANGANA STATE
Ph: 9885218375

IN THE COURT OF 72nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 73)
O.S. NO. 25712/2023
BETWEEN:
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh
Aged about 24 years
D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
...PLAINTIFF
AND:
1. MR. EMMANUEL
S/o Solomon
Aged 41 years,
House No.1/2, 1st Floor, 1st Temple Street, 15th Cross, Opp. Kadu Malleshwara Temple, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560 003.
....DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 3,48,481.27/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty One paisa Twenty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25712/2023** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 73, Before 72nd Addl.City Civil Court. Mayo Hall, Bengaluru
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **22nd day of June, 2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 27th day of May, 2024.
By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civ Court, Mayo Hall, BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No.99, Old No.11/1, Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005

Karnataka Bank distributes laptops

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Bank recently felicitated 56 poor and talented students of the Ramaiah Institute of Technology with laptops under its corporate social responsibility scheme.

The Deputy General Manager of the bank, B. Nagaraju Upadhyaya, and the vice-president of Gokula Education Institute, M.R. Seetharam, gave away the laptops to students.

Mr. Upadhyaya said the bank conducted several social welfare programmes under its CSR scheme and has been associated with Ramaiah for 30 years.

Dr. Seetharam urged students to develop the attitude of helping the poor at least once in a year after joining the work life.

KSPCB chairman removed from post

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shanth A. Thimmaiah

Shanth A. Thimmaiah was on Friday removed from the post of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) chairman by the government.

The government issued an order stating Mr. Thimmaiah's dismissal from the post and that it has given additional charge of the KSPCB chairman's post to IFS officer B.P. Ravi, who is Principal Secretary, Forests and Ecology.

The government has removed Mr. Thimmaiah for violating the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act while awarding advertising works to one agency and for doing so without obtaining necessary administrative approvals.

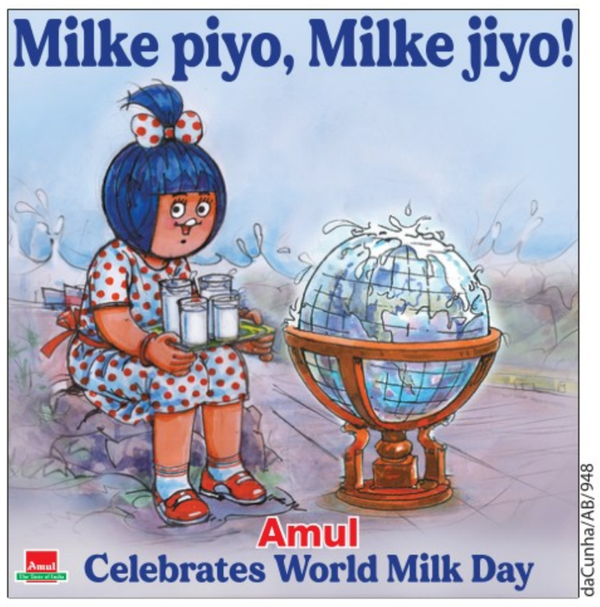
Apart from this, Mr. Thimmaiah has also been accused of misusing power to appoint KSPCB IT manager Suri Payala as member secretary.

This post, as per rule, is mandated to be held by an All-India Service Officer who has a master's degree in science or an equivalent degree in allied science.

An alleged scam in awarding clearances to a plastic recycling firm, Enviro Recyclean Pvt. Ltd., has also been cited in the government order dismissing Mr. Thimmaiah.

As per an audit conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, it had revealed that this firm apart from being not operational was issued extended producer responsibility (EPR) certificates for recycling 3.48 tonnes of plastic, besides it was alleged that the board has given clearance to operate the factory within seven working days after issuing consent to set up the plant.

Mr. Thimmaiah is said to have suspended three envioronment officers in connection with this.



Vocal concert tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

SAPTHAK, Bangalore, will present a music programme titled 'Swara Sandhya' on Sunday.

The programme will begin with a vocal concert by Tharini Nagarkar from the U.S. It will be followed by a vocal concert by Poornima Bhat Kulkarni.

The event will be held at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Sri B.P. Wadia Road in Basavanagudi, from 5.30 p.m.

Spotlight
Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Delhi:** The disappearance of Bangladesh MP Anwarul Azim Anar **bit.ly/anwarulmp**
- **Telangana:** Unending woes of State's farmers **bit.ly/farmerswoes**
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Koya tribe faces brewing conflict over sacred Mahua flower **bit.ly/mahuaflower**
- **Tamil Nadu:** Sikandar Chavadi: an example of communal harmony since British era **bit.ly/sikandarchavadi**
- **Kerala:** Gangs of Thiruvananthapuram **bit.ly/gangsoftvm**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Realtor arrested for blocking ambulance over road rage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An ambulance driver ferrying an accident victim to NIMHANS was allegedly blocked, chased, and harassed by a 43-year-old realtor for around 12 km recently.

The accused, identified as Gururaj Rao, a resident of Halasuru, also allegedly verbally abused the police and created a scene at the station when he was detained for obstructing the ambulance.

The police later found that Gururaj was disturbed and was under the influence of alcohol as he was returning home after attending the funeral of his relative in Tumakuru.

According to the police, the ambulance driver, Kumar, was rushing an accident victim identified as Shivaraj at Madhugiri gate in Tumakuru. The vehicle was rushing around 3 a.m. to save the patient who had suffered severe injury and was bleeding.

When the ambulance reached Yeshwantpur, Gururaj, who was passing by, started shouting and tried to block the way over road rage. The ambulance driver managed to go ahead, which enraged Gururaj and he chased the ambulance and tried to block the way while hurling abuses and threatening the driver with dire consequences to stop the vehicle.

With not much time left, the driver managed to reach Wilson Garden police station and sought the help of the police to save them from the unruly car driver. By then, Gururaj reached the station and allegedly misbehaved with the police too.

The police arrested Gururaj and seized his car to allow the ambulance to go to NIMHANS. Even at the station, the accused allegedly created a ruckus and threatened the police officials with dire consequences and refused to undergo the alcometer test.

The accused was arrested under IPC sections 353 (assaults or uses criminal force to any person being a public servant in the execution of his duty) and 506 (criminal intimidation). He has been remanded in judicial custody.

Three children drown in tank in Belur taluk of Hassan district

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Three children of a family drowned in a tank at Narasipura, near Halebid, in Belur taluk on Friday.

Deekshith, 10, his elder sister Nithyashree, 12, and their relative Kusuma, 6, were playing near the tank. One of them fell into the water accidentally. Following this, the other two also got into the water and all three drowned.

Parents, relatives, and villagers gathered in large numbers at the tank. The local people retrieved the bodies.

The Halebid police reached the spot and shifted the bodies for post-mortem.

It may be recalled that four boys who went for a swim in a tank at Muttige village in Alur taluk drowned on May 16.

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. 07/2024

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 11th, 12th &13th June, 2024 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of Ph.D in Chemistry / MSc in (Chemistry / Microbiology / Biotechnology) / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering etc.

For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**

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Controller of Administration

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भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि.अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित / Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग, के तहत एक स्वायत्त संस्थान / An Autonomous institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India
वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम - 695 547, केरल / Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 547, Kerala
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Exists as a symbiotic counterpart of ISRO, offering students opportunities to engage in ground breaking, interdisciplinary research at IIST and other ISRO centers
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Academic Year 2024-2025
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B.Tech. in Aerospace Engineering (4 Yrs - 72 seats)
B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Avionics) (4 Yrs - 72 seats)
Dual Degree (B.Tech. & Master of Science / M.Tech.) (5 Yrs - 24 seats)
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IIST Web portal: Opening Date: 03.06.2024, 1000 hrs
Closing Date: 14.06.2024, 2359 hrs
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M.Tech. in Aerodynamics and Flight Mechanics
M.Tech. in Structures and Design
M.Tech. in Thermal and Propulsion
M.Tech. in Manufacturing Technology*
M.Tech. in Control Systems
M.Tech. in Digital Signal Processing
M.Tech. in Power Electronics
M.Tech. in RF and Microwave Engineering
M.Tech. in VLSI and Microsystems
M.Tech. in Materials Science and Technology
M.Tech. in Earth System Science
M.Tech. in Geoinformatics
M.Tech. in Machine Learning and Computing
M.Tech. in Optical Engineering
M.Tech. in Quantum Technology
Master of Science in Astronomy and Astrophysics
Admission mode: CCMT - 2024 | https://ccmt.admissions.nic.in/
CCMT Webportal Opening date: 24.05.2024, 1000 hrs
*Subject to approval by AICTE
Closing Date: 07.06.2024, 1730 hrs
Contact us for UG Admission: ugadmissions@iist.ac.in
Contact us for PG Admission: admissions@iist.ac.in
For application process & Detailed information, visit the Institute website: https://admissions.iist.ac.in/
Ph: 0471-2568477/478/618

High Court issues notice to SIT, Revanna in abduction case

Former Minister challenges the filing of the case against him, while SIT seeks cancellation of bail granted to him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Friday ordered issue of notices to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on a petition filed by former Minister H.D. Revanna, who has challenged registration of an abduction case against him, and to Mr. Revanna on a petition filed by the SIT, which has sought cancellation of bail granted to him by a special court in the case.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit, before whom both the petitions came up for hearing, has adjourned the hearing on SIT's petition observing that it has made out an arguable case by pointing out interpretation of Section 364A (kidnapping for ransom, etc.,) made by the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against MPs and MLAs in its May 13 order of granting bail to Mr. Revanna.

Earlier, SIT's Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Ravivarma Kumar had pointed out that the special court has committed an error in interpretation of Section 364A and the High Court has to examine whether the order of granting bail was perverse and arbitrary both in law and on facts of the case.

Former Minister H.D. Revanna being arrested by SIT in early week of May for allegedly abducting his househelp.
FILE PHOTO

Revanna's petition

Meanwhile, senior advocate C.V. Nagesh, appearing for Mr. Revanna in the petition questioning the legality of registration of case under Section 364A of the IPC by K.R. Nagar police, has argued that the complaint, filed by victim's son, has no ingredient for invoking Section 364A.

The ingredients like ransom, force or deceit are absent in the complaint as the woman had herself accompanied Satish Babanna, one of the accused, who had gone in a 'right royal way' to the woman's house in K.R. Nagar and asked her to accompany him on his motorcycle, by allegedly stating that he was acting on Mr. Revanna's instructions.

However, Mr. Kumar, citing the meaning of the word "deceit" from the Black's dictionary, told the court that what has been made out in the present case is only a 'trailer' and lot more is yet to come. But Mr. Nagesh said the sections of the IPC invoked in the FIR cannot travel beyond the contents of the complaint.

The court adjourned the hearing on the petition by ordering issue of notice to the complainant.

Team of women officers execute arrest warrant of Prajwal Revanna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hassan Member of Parliament Prajwal Revanna, who was briefly interrogated at the Special Investigation Team (SIT) office and later subjected to a medical test at Bowring hospital after his arrest from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) upon his return from Germany on Friday, was later taken to the court to seek his custody.

It was a team of women officers, including those who are part of the SIT, who executed the warrant and arrested Mr. Prajwal Revanna after his return to Bengaluru.

According to sources in the SIT, the police seized a phone from Mr. Prajwal Revanna, but they did not confirm whether it was the device in which the alleged videos were recorded.

A Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) appearing for the SIT sought 15-day custody of Prajwal, but the court granted six-day custody. The court also directed the police not to harass the accused during the interrogation. He will be presented again before the court on June 6. Sources said the SIT will request for extension of his custody.

Sources in the SIT said that at the 42nd Additional Metropolitan Magistrate court (elected representative court) Mr. Prajwal Revanna complained to the judge about the poor state of the toilet in a room where he spent the night in the CID office. A senior police officer told *The Hindu*, "The SIT cannot provide him with a five-star facility and the toilets here are clean and hygienic."

Timeline

- **April 21:** Obscene videos surface in Hassan
- **April 26:** Prajwal Revanna flees the county after casting vote
- **April 28:** State government sets up a Special Investigation Team to probe sexual abuse charges
- **May 1:** Prajwal puts out a post on X seeking seven days to appear for investigation
- **May 27:** He releases a video from Germany informing that he will arrive in Bengaluru on May 31
- **May 31:** Upon his arrival, SIT arrests Prajwal and a court remands him in judicial custody

Plea rejected

Meanwhile, in the kidnap case filed against Bhavani Revanna, mother of Mr. Prajwal Revanna, the court rejected the anticipatory bail plea. The SIT will be questioning her on Saturday at her residence in Holenarsipur.

Dak Adalat on June 7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Office of the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Bengaluru South, is organising a Dak Adalat on June 7 on its premises, 2nd Floor, Jayanagar Head Post Office Building, 11th Main, 4th T Block, at 11 a.m.

Grievances

According to an official press release, grievances or complaints relating to postal services such as delivery of mails, speed post articles, parcels, money orders, savings bank, cash certificates, and counter services, if any, concerning Bengaluru South Division may be sent to dobangaloresouth.ka@indiapost.gov.in by June 5 before 4 p.m.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUN. 01	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:43
RISE	01:30 SET 13:50
SUNDAY, JUN. 02	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:43
RISE	02:11 SET 14:45
MONDAY, JUN. 03	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:43
RISE	02:54 SET 15:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	38	26
Mysuru	35	23
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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Prajwal's arrest will not damage party's image, says GTD

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

JD(S) core committee president G.T. Deve Gowda has said the arrest of Prajwal Revanna will not affect the party's image.

At a press conference in Hassan on Friday, Mr. Deve Gowda said that soon after the case came to light, the party's State president and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy opined that the guilty should be punished. "We also welcomed the State government's decision to form SIT to probe the allegations. And, soon the party suspended the accused," he said.

Further, Mr. Deve Gowda said that the party was in favour of justice for survivors. "The people, who staged a protest in Hassan on Thursday demanded the arrest of the accused. Now, he has been arrested. No leader of the party is making any efforts to influence the investigation," he said.

THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that our client Shaik Rafath Zishan intends/in process to buy the free hold site mentioned in the schedule described hereunder called as said property from 1) Mr. Raghav .S.N, S/o. S.N. Narayanappa, 2) Smt. Manall .I.S, W/o. Mr. Raghav .S.V, who claims to be the sole and absolute owners and in physical possession of the entire said property. The said owners have also assured to our client the said property had clear and marketable title and free from all sorts of encumbrances and they have till right to sell the said property. Any person or entity having any objections to this notice may be pleased to file their objections to the address given below advocate within 10 days from the date of this notice failing which my client proceeds to purchase the same, presuming that there is no objection from any third parties.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 378, Katha No. 861 in the layout formed by the ministry of communications Employees cooperative Housing Society Ltd. at Rachenahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, presently known as Dr. Shivaram Kranth Nagar, now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Limits, Bengaluru, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever wether underneath or above the surface;

measuring :- East To West: 60 ft, North To South : 40 ft; In all measuring 2400 sq.ft;

Bounded on East By: Site No. 385, West By: Road, North By: Site No. 379, South By : Site No.377.

G.R. Lakshmipathi Reddy M.A. LLB
Advocate
No. 39/2, 5th Floor, ASVNV Bhavan,
K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 09.
Bengaluru, Date : 01.06.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners, namely, **Sri.HARISH JAYANTILAL MOMAYA** S/o Sri.Jayantilal Momaya and his wife **Smt.MEENA HARISH MOMAYA**, residing at Flat No.A-902, Raheja Residency, Plot No.24/26, Near M.G.Complex, Sector-14, Vashi, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra-400703.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Commercial property bearing Municipal No.28, PID No.30-2-28, measuring East to West 17¾ ft and North to South 68 ft, in all measuring 1207 Sq.ft., with a building thereon, situated at Old Tharagupet, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property No.27
West by : Shop of Singam Rangaswamappa
North by : Old Tharagupet Road
South by : Municipal open land (Cart-Stand)

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division,
LPSC CAMPUS
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru.
Ph No: 080-25037136/080-25037214

Date: 30.05.2024

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Name of work	**Rehabilitation work for General Fabrication Area Corridor, Block-E Main Building, LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru- (Civil Works).**
Tender Notice No	**CMD/LPSCB/C/MI/02/2024-25 Dt: 31.05.2024**
Estimated amount	**₹ 13.41 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**2 Months**
Sale Period	**From 31.05.2024 to 07.06.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 26,820/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO .** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD LPSC (B)

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building
Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-02
(E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

4th TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

Important date against NIT No. 737/PR/JUSNL/2023-24 for Procurement of Battery Set for various GSS in JUSNL is hereby extended in following manner : -

End date and time of upload of BID	18.06.2024 up to 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical & commercial part	19.06.2024 at 04.00 PM

This extension notice is also available on the website **www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in**

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570 (कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 322880

Sd/-
General Manager, C&M (NWBP)
JUSNL, Ranchi

PR 325238 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd (24-25)_D

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Tender No.: REW-EL-MC, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Maint., Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India, invites **open e-tender** through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed firms based on single packet system for the under mentioned work: **(1) Name of work with its location and completion period:** Rewiring and electrical repairing of different machines in Mould Room area as per Scope of work, **(2) Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 1,03,83,165.74, **(3) Bid Security to be Deposited:** ₹ 2,01,900/-, **(4) Tender closing date and time:** 25.06.2024 at 15:00 hrs., **(5) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer(s)/bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to be above tender.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer-Maint.
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2024-25/27

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client is desirous of purchasing the property described in the Schedule written hereunder ("THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY") from Smt. Sheela Dharamarajan, wife of Sri P.S. Dharamarajan, No.14 (W), Trinity Woods, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru 560034. Smt. Sheela Dharmarajan has represented to our Client that she has purchased the Schedule Property under a Sale Deed dated 04/04/2001 (registered as Document No.123/2001-2002 of Book-I, Vol 4845, at pages 45 to 55, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk) from Sri E. Ashwathanarayana, son of Sri Erappa and his family members represented by their Agent Sri R. Nagaraj, son of Sri M.K. Radhakrishna Reddy.

Any person/s asserting any right/s, interest, title or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property, in any manner whatsoever or has any right/s or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property or has any objection/s to such sale thereof in favour of our Client, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing, within 15 days from the date of issuance of this Public Notice, along with documentary proof thereof. If no such written objections/claims along with documentary proof is/are received by the undersigned within the aforesaid period our Client will proceed on the basis that there are no claim/s and/or objection/s whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property and will conclude the sale transaction, without being liable for any future claim/s.

SCHEDULE

All piece and parcel of vacant residential Site bearing No.153, BBMP Khatha No.959/939/153, old Khatha No.939, in the layout known as "Rainbow Drive", formed in Survey No.12/2, situated at Junnasandra Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk currently measuring about 2,993 square feet and bounded as follows:

On the East:By Site No.154;West:By Site No.152;North:By Private Road; and South:By Site No.245.

Bengaluru
Date: 01-06-2024

M/s. Sundaraswamy & Ramdas
Advocates,
No.24, Keshava Nivas, Kalidasa Road,
Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560 009.
Ph: 22263838, 22380809, 22251764
E-mail: admin@sundaraswamy.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Mr. PRAMOD KUMAR .P LAXMIN** aged about 45 years residing at #291, 2nd Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru South-560078, is the Agreement & GPA Holder of the below mentioned schedule properties entered in to the agreement to sell in favour of my clients free from all encumbrances. Any person having any Right, Title, Interest, Claim are Demand of any nature WHATSOEVER in respect of the scheduled properties is here by required to state in writing the claim/objection along with documentary proof of such claim/objection, So as to reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication is hereof failing which the further proceedings will be completed, without any such references to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been give up are waived off.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Situated at Arudi Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

SY. NO.	EXTENT (IN ACRES)	EAST BY:	WEST BY:	NORTH BY:	SOUTH BY:
356, 357, 358	12.32	Rangappa	Kempaiah	Narasimhaiah	Hanumanthaiah
315/P 24	2.20	Govt canal	Muthappa	Muthurayappa	Rermaining property 315
317, 320	4.32	Laxmaiah	Road	Hanumanthaiah	Narasimha Muithy
362	2.22	Road	Sy. No. 356	Sy. No. 361	Sy.No. 355 & 356
313/P 3	2.00	Muthurayappa	Puttanarasappa	Narasimaiah	Govt property
269/1	0.34	Narasappa	Road	Dasegwoda	Govt Canal
315/P 1	4.20	Doddamuthaiah	Rangadhamaiah	Muthaiah	Madhugiri Thimmaiah
367/P 9	1.20	Narasiyappa	Kodamaiah	Papanna	Ranganna
424/P 16	1.30	Hanumantharayappa	Narasappa	Anjanappa	Chenapanna
315/P 12	4.08	Muthaiah	Govt. Land	Doddamuthaiah	Rarnakrishnaiah
424/P 19	2.35	Govt Canal	Chinappanna	Lakshminarasaiah	Muthurayappa
315/P 18	2.30	Muthiah	Chikkanna	Nagaraju	Pathway

MR. MOHAMMED MONISH SOWKAR, Advocate
12A, 4th Floor, Narang Chambers, N R Road, Bangalore - 560002. Ph.No. 080-29912500

Place : Bengaluru Date : 30-05-2024

THE HINDU GROUP

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Swing into action this cricket season by participating in The Hindu's special T20 trivia quiz from **June 2 to June 28, 2024.**

Score quick with your cricket knowledge and win* exciting prizes everyday!

*T & C apply

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A BG-BGE

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

Salvaging polluted cities

One simple, sustainable strategy to fight air pollution is to grow more trees and keep nurturing them

ENVIRONMENT

Rituparna Simlai

When Delhi grapples with air pollution, the city finds itself ensnared in a thick blanket of toxic smog, pushing its air quality index to alarming levels again. The severity of the situation prompts drastic measures, including school closures and restrictions on construction activities. In the face of this crisis, the urgent need for effective solutions to combat air pollution has never been more evident. Planners and designers are reimagining cityscapes with verdant green corridors and tree-lined boulevards, weaving greenery seamlessly into the urban fabric.

Phytoremediation, the use of plants to clean up contaminated soil and water, or phylloremediation to clean polluted air, are well-researched, sustainable, and cost-effective solutions to combat pollution. Planting certain species, like the Ixora spp and *Tecoma stans*, one can create a natural air-purifying barrier, absorbing harmful substances such as hydrocarbons and aromatic compounds. Recent studies have shown that plants rich in ascorbic acid, like the mighty pipal and mango trees, are particularly effective at combating the adverse effects of pollution. Plant roots also play a crucial role in breaking down toxins, transforming harmful pollutants into less detrimental forms.

Imagine, one tree can provide enough oxygen for four people in a day, while also absorbing over 48 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. Given India's staggering population of 1.4 billion, the simple act of planting just one tree in our lifetime can dramatically enhance our immediate environment.

How have cities around the world battled air pollution? The High Line in New York City is a testament to this vision, transforming an old rail line into a vibrant greenway that breathes life into Manhattan's concrete jungle, while the underline in Miami is reactivating the space under the metro with lush greenery and nodes for activities.

Meanwhile, sustainable neighbourhoods like Freiburg's Vauban District prioritise green infrastructure, blending tree-lined streets with pedestrian-friendly design principles rather than prioritising cars and additional asphalt roads. Iconic public spaces like Chicago's Millennium Park showcase the beauty of urban forestry, with sprawling gardens and shaded groves inviting visitors to reconnect with nature in the heart of the city.

Bogota, Colombia. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Landscape infrastructure takes centrestage in initiatives such as Seoul's Cheonggyecheon Restoration Project, where neglected urban streams are reborn as vibrant green corridors.

London's effort

On December 5, 1952, London was engulfed in a thick smog that triggered respiratory illnesses, leading to the Great Smog, a deadly event lasting nearly a week and claiming between 4,000 and 10,000 lives. In response, strict measures were taken to address pollution.

It included the implementation of green infrastructure to mitigate coarse pollution, stricter emission standards for construction vehicles to reduce idling, and the replacement of local power generators with electric alternatives. Practices such as water recycling on site, prohibiting material burning, and revegetation of exposed areas due to earthwork were adopted.

An avenue trees corridor. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Change in New York

Yet another instance of a city reversing the tide on pollution was seen in New York. The city has seen a remarkable 40% decrease in fine particulate matter pollution over the past two decades. Back in the 1960s, smog was pervasive. In 1966, the haze led to an alarming number of deaths, approximately 24 per day.

The passage of the 1967 Air Quality Act and the landmark 1970 Clean Air Act established federal standards for mobile sources of air pollution and hazardous air pollutants. In parallel, initiatives like tree planting programmes were launched by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the 1960s to address environmental conservation.

Green space

In India, the prospect of achieving clear skies is possible as seen during the pandemic. The COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 significantly improved air quality. Delhi, along with other cities, witnessed a drastic reduction in air pollution during the lockdown period.

Encouraged by this positive change, several cities around the globe initiated measures to address pollution at its source.

For example, Bogota in Colombia is transitioning to electric buses and metro systems to reduce air pollution by 10% by 2024, while also promoting bicycle usage with one million daily trips recorded in 2020.

Similarly, Seoul, South Korea, announced a ban on diesel cars from the public sector and mass transit by 2025.

The Green Bangkok 2030 project aims to enhance green space in the city, with plans to open 11 parks and a 15km greenway to reduce reliance on private transportation. Paris has taken bold steps by banning polluting vehicles and repurposing road space for trees, pedestrians, and bike lanes, contributing to efforts to combat pollution.

The writer is landscape architect and Principal, Studio Arth, Miami, Florida.

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BG-BGE

Panel formed to probe contractor's death in Davangere

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after Davangere-based contractor P.S. Goudar was found dead, allegedly over the non-payment of bills for works he executed at Santebennur in Channagiri taluk, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Priyank Kharge on Friday directed the Additional Chief Secretary of the RDPR Department to form a committee of senior officers to probe the case.

Mr. Kharge said on X: "I have instructed ACS RDPR to form a committee of senior officers to inquire and submit a report on these allegations on Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Ltd (KRIDL). KRIDL is an engineering corporation and sub-contracting is not encouraged".

Brothers blamed

In a note left behind, which has embarrassed the State government, Mr. Goudar alleged that his elder brother G.S. Nagaraj, his younger brother Goudar Sreenivas, and Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited, Davangere, were responsible for his death.

A family dispute is also said to be a factor, according to reports.

The contractor's death has come at a time when the BJP and the JD(S) have stepped up their demand for the resignation of Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare B. Nagendra, after the alleged diversion of funds of the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

A few days ago, P. Chandrashekaran, Accounts Superintendent at the corporation, was found dead following the alleged fraud in the diversion of funds.

In a note, he blamed senior officials of the corporation and Union Bank of India officials for his death.

'What right do MLAs have to go to police stations in criminal cases registered against any individual?'

If such a conduct is allowed, then the police will not be in a position to discharge their duties, Karnataka High Court tells advocate representing Harish Poonja

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

What right does a MLA have to go to a police station in connection with a criminal case registered against an individual? How should police officers function if the MLA goes and sits in a police station?"

The High Court of Karnataka posed these questions orally to the advocate representing Harish Poonja, Belthangady MLA, during a hearing on the MLA's petition, challenging the legality of a criminal case registered against him for obstructing the police from discharging their duties, in connection with a criminal case against Belthangady taluk BJP Yuva Morcha president Shahiraj Shetty. Justice Krishna S. Dixit, before whom Mr. Poonja's petition came up for hearing, observed orally that the court is against MLAs going to police stations in connection with criminal cases registered against others.

A file photo of Harish Poonja, Belthangady MLA, staging a protest at the Belthangady police station in Dakshina Kannada district.

"Can a MLA go to a police station and question the police if the wife or the son of a suspected terrorist calls the MLA to complain about an illegal arrest?," the court asked senior advocate Prabhuling K. Navadgi, who represented Mr. Poonja, when Mr. Navadgi pointed out that Mr. Poonja went to the station after a phone call from Mr. Shetty's wife, saying the police had taken her husband to the station late in the night without disclosing any information.

Mr. Navadgi said that Mr. Poonja went as MLAs have a responsibility to verify complaints from citizens, and claimed that perhaps the MLA had raised his voice noticing that Mr. Shetty was taken into custody before registering a case.

However, Justice Dixit said that the court is against MLAs going to police stations in connection with criminal cases and if such a conduct is allowed, then the police will not be in a position to discharge their duties.

"Is there any judgement on the rights of MLAs for questioning the police's actions in a criminal case?" the court asked.

Taking note of instances of attacks on police stations, the court said: "We have to protect the police or else no citizen would be safe if MLAs go and sit in police stations in connection with criminal cases".

Pointing out that the law has various remedies if the police have illegally arrested any person or if there are excesses by the police, the court asked how could MLAs go to stations to oppose such actions by the police.

Case background

The police registered a *suo motu* case against Mr. Poonja for offences punishable under Sections 353 (preventing or deterring a public servant from performing duty) and 504 (intentional insult with an intent to provoke breach of peace) of the Indian Penal Code, for creating a ruckus in a police station on May 18.

Meanwile, Additional Public Prosecutor B.N. Jagadish told the court that the Puttur Circle Inspector has filed the chargesheet against Mr. Poonja, and the taluk court had already taken cognisance of the offences against him.

The court adjourned further hearing on the petition asking the police to file their objections.

Govt. will not 'voluntarily' hand over Valmiki corpn. scam case to CBI: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst demand by the BJP for an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the alleged unauthorised transfer of funds belonging to the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (MVSTDC), Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Friday said that the State government will not hand over the investigation to the CBI "voluntarily."

While the BJP has been demanding a CBI inquiry, the Union Bank of India (UBI), which is at the centre of controversy as its officials allegedly connived to make the transfers to unauthorised accounts, on Thursday approached the CBI to investigate the case.

'Not over ₹100 crore'

"We will not voluntarily hand over the case to the CBI. The case will be handed over to the CBI if there is financial irregularity of over ₹100 crore. The CID has started investigation now and it will ascertain if the scam is over ₹100 crore. Let us see what needs to be done in the future," the Home Minister told pressmen here on Friday. He said the matter would be discussed with the Chief Minister if needed.

The CID has started investigation now and it will ascertain if the scam is over ₹100 crore. Let us see what needs to be done in the future.
G. PARAMESHWARA, Home Minister

The State government is directly responsible for the irregularities and the money has been transferred to fake accounts without even preparing an action plan.
C.N. ASHWATH NARAYAN, Former Deputy Chief Minister

It is alleged that of about ₹187.33 crore belonging to the corporation from the financial years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, about ₹94 crore has been transferred to 14 accounts belonging to IT companies and a Hyderabad-based cooperative society on the basis of forged signatures and documents.

The scam came to light after Accounts Superintendent of the corporation P. Chandrashekaran was found dead and in a note he blamed two corporation officials and a bank official for the financial irregularities.

BJP steps up pressure

Meanwhile, stepping up pressure on the government, the BJP has sought the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the arrest of Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare B. Nagendra, besides handing over the investigation to the CBI in the wake of the Union Bank of India approaching the CBI for a probe.

"The State government is directly responsible for the irregularities and the money has been transferred to fake accounts without even preparing an action plan. The Minister should be arrested," former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan told presspersons here.

Urging the government to make public the identity of persons whose accounts received money belonging to the corporation, he took exception to the FIR not mentioning the names of the Minister and officials involved in the unauthorised transfer of money.

From Page One

SIT set up to probe multi-crore scam in Valmiki corporation

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Friday discussed the issue and reportedly informed the party's central leaders, including Randeep Singh Surjewala, general secretary in charge of Karnataka.

The Opposition's demand for the Minister's resignation is likely to be discussed during the Congress Legislature Party meeting on Sunday.

Already, the government has suspended two senior officers of the corporation. Following allegations of involvement of Union Bank of India officials in the fraud, the bank, meanwhile, has sought a CBI probe.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, who met the family of the deceased officer in Shivamogga, told reporters that such a big scam could not have taken place without the support of the Minister and Chief Minister and sought a CBI probe.

INBRIEF

'Has Ashok forgotten saffronising State police?'

Lashing out at the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok for saying that police stations in Karnataka need protection, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said it was the BJP which tried to saffronise the police force in the State. Speaking to reporters in Kanakapura, he said: "Has Mr. Ashok forgotten that it was the BJP government which made the police wear saffron clothes during festivals?"

Asked about the BJP's deadline of June 6 for Minister B. Nagendra to resign, he said: "They are not raising issues that needs to be raised."

Hospitals directed to ensure transparency in procurement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a report by the Chief Vigilance Officer that pointed out lapses in procurement of drugs, chemicals, equipment, and other miscellaneous items by State-run hospitals, the Health Department has now directed all hospital heads to stop the practice of split quotations in procurement and ensure transparency.

The report – submitted recently by the officer to the department after an inspection of various government health facilities – has found that hospitals are deliberately splitting quotations for procurement of drugs and other required items in their facilities, thereby bypassing provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act, 1999.

Sources in the Health Department revealed that hospital heads, who have the power to procure locally if there is a short supply through the State Medical Supplies Corporation, have been splitting orders into small amounts to get exemptions under the KTPP Act. Besides, the procurement lacked planning by hospitals, resulting in a delay in finalising the rate contracts for the supply of drugs. Most of the time, the exemptions lacked justification, as the rates at which the procurement was done were much higher than the prevailing market rates, thereby resulting in loss to the department, sources said.

Following this, State Health Commissioner Randeep D. issued a circular on May 20 directing all hospital heads to mandatorily follow the KTPP Act in all procurements and ensure transparency.

"All procurements in State-run hospitals and institutions should be as per the guidelines under the KTPP Act. Quotations for procurement of items under one head should not be split and there should not be any procedural lapses," the circular stated.

"All community health centres, mother and child hospitals, taluk and district hospitals, training centres, and all offices under the department have been directed to mandatorily follow the KTPP Act in all procurements using State/Central grants, Ayushman Bharat - Arogya Karnataka funds and National Health Mission funds," the circular stated.

CLP meeting today to discuss elections to Council seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on Sunday to discuss elections to 11 seats to the Legislative Council from the Assembly constituency.

The polling will be held on June 13 and the results will be announced the same day.

Attendees

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, and MLAs and MLCs of the party will attend the meeting on Sunday evening at a private hotel in the city.

The Congress with its 136 members in the Assembly can ensure the victory of seven candidates.

The term of 11 MLCs [six from the BJP, four from the Congress, and one from the JD(S)] will end on June 17.

The last date for filing nominations is June 3. Nominations will be scrutinised on June 4, while the last date for withdrawal is June 6.

After failing to get water for farm, engineer develops models to harvest rainwater

Sathish G.T.
HADIHALLI
(CHIKKAMAGALURU)

Failure to get the water required for a six-acre farm even after drilling 28 borewells forced Michael Sadananda Baptist, a mechanical engineer, to take up research on rainwater harvesting.

His quest to understand ways to conserve rainwater resulted in setting up the Rainy Research and Innovation Factory with friends and family members.

Now, the firm, after decades of research and innovations in the field, has come up with suggestions for the State government and the public to resolve the water crisis during the tough days of drought.

Mr. Baptist, briefing a team of journalists that visited his research centre at Hadihalli in Chikkamagaluru taluk, explained the effective models that help the public conserve large quantities of rainwater.

The firm also has workable models to recharge borewells in agricultural fields and to harvest rainwater in large structures. The investment in research and development by the firm has resulted in patents for filters that it developed.

Michael Sadananda Baptist, founder of Rainy Research and Innovation Factory, has developed many models to harvest rainwater and recharge borewells. SATHISH G.T.

Mr. Baptist's in-depth research into making rainwater harvesting affordable and easy helped the firm develop models suitable for individual households.

"A family with a house built on 1,200 sqft (30x40 sft) of area can have a rooftop rainwater harvesting system by investing around ₹16,000 to ₹18,000. In the case of a 2,400 sqft (60x40 sft), the amount will be between ₹28,000 and ₹35,000, including the filters. This is the right time to have the system in place, as it can help conserve the water in the coming rainy season," he said.

For recharging borewells, the firm has developed V-Wire injection well technology. This technology had been implemented to recharge over 650 borewells of the Social Welfare Department. "This can be taken up on a large scale to recharge government borewells if the State shows interest", he said.

The firm has exhibited all the models it developed at its research centre. "We are not letting a drop of water go out of our campus. Besides, we are providing water for farmers in Hadihalli as well," he said.

GST on equipment

He stressed the need to bring down the GST on rainwater harvesting equipment from 18% to 5%.

"The GST is very high. The customers will get benefits if the tax is reduced. Such a move will encourage the public to have the system in place," Mr. Baptist added.

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PRESS NOTIFICATION NO. 12782/F/F2/2022

Invites Bids on NCDEX e-market Limited procurement of Base vehicles with Fabrication for Mobile Veterinary Clinics. Government of Telangana has proposed to start 100 Mobile Veterinary Clinics in the state and the intended to procure 100 base vehicles along with fabrication from the reputed manufactures of India. The interested bidders are requested to go through the website (**www.neml.in**) and can go through the tender terms and conditions along with specification for fabrication to place their bids from 01.06.2024.

Bid Calling	01.06.2024
Last date for the receipt of Scanned documents towards criteria (PQ, Technical) defined in the tender document is	21.06.2024 05.00 PM
Online Auction date	28.06.2024
Scanned documents shall be mailed to	askus@neml.in, sreeram.reddy@neml.in, bhimanapally.sureshkumar@neml.in
Contact number	08121156977, 7569819838
Contact address	Directorate of Veterinary & AH Department, Shantinagar, Hyderabad

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SC to examine if govt. could merge district, State co-op banks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the *status quo* in the compulsory merger of Malappuram District Cooperative Bank with the Kerala State Cooperative Bank.

The Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has agreed to examine the legality of amendments in law, which allows for the compulsory merger of district cooperative banks with State cooperative banks.

The order came in a petition filed by MLA U.A. Latheef, former president of the Malappuram Cooperative Bank.

HC decision challenged

The lawmaker has challenged a judgment pronounced by a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on February 29 confirming a Single Bench decision. The Single Bench had upheld the amendments to the Kerala Cooperative Societies Act, 1969, and affirmed the order of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies for the compulsory amalgamation of the district cooperative banks with the State banks.

"The seminal question of public importance is whether the State government can compulsorily amalgamate the district cooperative banks, particularly those having licences under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, to the State cooperative banks through State largesse resorting to undemocratic methods and unconstitutional amendments without following due procedure of law solely to achieve arbitrary State objectives by any means," the petition said.

Modi's meditation continues; it's likely to end at 3 p.m. today

After spending the most part of the night in meditation, the Prime Minister got up early on Friday and enjoyed the sunrise and meditated for about 20 minutes in front of 'Devi padam'

The Hindu Bureau
KANNIYAKUMARI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who began his meditation at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial on Thursday, continued his *dyan* for the second day on Friday.

After spending much of the night in meditation, Mr. Modi, who got up early on Friday, enjoyed the sunrise from the Vivekananda memorial and meditated for about 20 minutes in front of the 'Devi padam', believed to be the footprint left by Bhagavathi Amman on the rock as she meditated in devotion to Lord Shiva.

He also spent a few more minutes in the open to enjoy the sea breeze and the imposing 133-foot-tall Thiruvalluvar statue, before re-entering the meditation hall to continue his *dyan*. The Prime Minister is expected to complete his meditation at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

While the meditation hall has been cordoned off, tourists are allowed to visit other areas of the memorial. N. RAJESH

While Mr. Modi stayed in the memorial, speedboats of the Coastal Security Group and ships of the Indian Coast Guard patrolled the monument round the clock.

With several restrictions, tourists are being allowed to visit the Vivekananda memorial on boats operated by the Tamil Nadu government's Poompuhar Shipping Corporation from 8 a.m. on Friday.

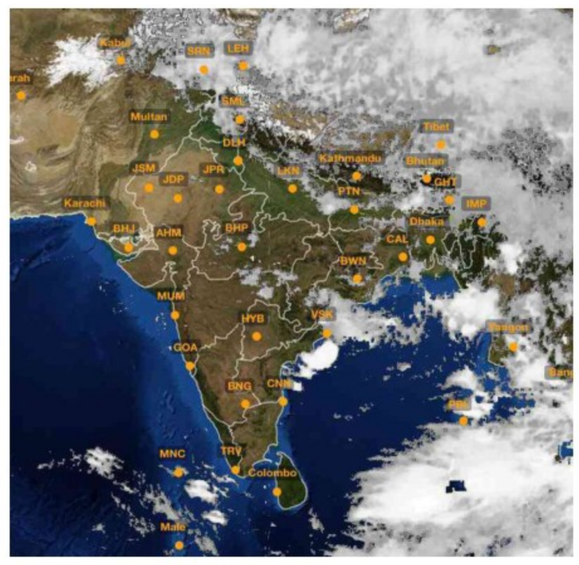
Restrictions imposed

"The visitors are being frisked thoroughly, and are not allowed to carry cameras or bags to the memorial. While the meditation hall has been cordoned off by the security personnel, the tourists can visit other places, including the 'Devi padam'. We don't want to disappoint the visitors," a senior police officer said.

However, the number of tourists visiting the memorial was minimal on Friday, as most people stayed away due to the security arrangements and restrictions. The rooms in most of the hotels remained vacant.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and coastal Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.7	35.8	26.2	Kozhikode	5	35.0	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	42.6	29.7	Kurnool	—	42.0	29.6
Aizawl	30	32.9	22.6	Lucknow	—	45.8	29.3
Allahabad	1	46.8	33.8	Madurai	—	39.9	28.0
Bengaluru	—	35.4	23.3	Mangaluru	0.4	32.7	25.4
Bhopal	—	42.4	30.4	Mumbai	—	35.6	29.2
Bhubaneswar	—	34.0	30.0	Mysuru	—	33.0	—
Chandigarh	—	46.7	28.8	New Delhi	—	45.8	29.0
Chennai	—	41.5	29.6	Patna	—	36.7	27.7
Coimbatore	—	34.7	24.6	Port Blair	17	30.5	25.3
Dehradun	—	43.2	25.4	Puducherry	0.2	39.7	29.1
Gangtok	79	21.0	17.9	Pune	—	38.0	26.2
Goa	—	35.8	28.6	Raipur	—	46.4	31.3
Guwahati	35	32.0	23.6	Ranchi	0.2	35.6	27.1
Hubballi	—	37.0	25.0	Shillong	4	26.2	16.4
Hyderabad	—	41.0	29.7	Shimla	—	34.4	21.6
Imphal	2	31.5	21.5	Srinagar	—	28.0	13.4
Jaipur	—	45.0	33.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	32.4	24.9
Kochi	9	32.2	25.2	Tiruchi	—	39.7	28.4
Kohima	1	22.5	16.7	Vijayawada	—	42.1	30.2
Kolkata	20	30.2	24.8	Visakhapatnam	—	36.2	30.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	17	83	57	284	176	
Bengaluru	10	31	13	42	125	
Chennai	7	7	97	115	74	
Delhi	21	112	86	369	250	
Hyderabad	10	8	28	167	100	
Kolkata	7	34	41	35	58	
Lucknow	7	42	28	235	174	
Mumbai	32	13	7	55	150	
Pune	7	12	62	52	48	
Visakhapatnam	15	43	28	57	101	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 265 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Siliguri, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

The Hindu Group wins gold and silver at Abby One Show Awards at Goafest

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu Group won the gold and silver in the 'Best client-brand activation or display advertising innovation by a publisher' category at the Abby One Show Awards at the Goafest 2024 in Mumbai.

The Abby Awards highlights and recognises the industry's most innovative minds and groundbreaking campaigns, according to a press release.

The gold award was won by the 'Cadbury Iniya Kondattam' campaign, a collaboration with The Hindu Group and Mondelez India, featuring a five-part mini-series on Tamil Nadu's popular icons and their favourite traditional dishes infused with Cadbury.

The awards were for a campaign and contest showcasing traditional dishes

The silver award was for *The Hindu* 'Our State Our taste', a culinary contest showcasing the treasured dishes of South India. This became a platform for home cooks across South India to showcase their hidden talent.

CEO of The Hindu Group L.V. Navaneeth said, "This recognition at the Abby One Show Awards reflects our steadfast dedication to our readers and advertisers. These wins signify that the campaign excelled creatively while also achieving outstanding results in brand engagement and impact."

CPI(M) alleges attempt to defame Kerala CM

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan pointedly accused a Malayalam newspaper of conspiring with the Congress and the BJP to defame Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by "damagingly and erroneously" equating an international firm with offices in Europe and the West Asia, Exalogic Consulting Company, with his daughter, T. Veena's Exalogic Solutions.

He said BJP leader Shaun George, as if on a cue, regurgitated the newspaper's "falsehood" and moved the High Court to bring the international firm under the ambit of the controversial SFIO inquiry, itself a politically motivated sham, against Ms. Veena.

INBRIEF

Heavy rainfall warning for five districts of Kerala today

With Southwest monsoon having set in over Kerala, the Met Centre has issued a heavy rainfall for several districts upto June 2. A yellow alert indicating 7 cm to 11 cm of rainfall in 24 hours, has been issued for Idukki, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad districts on June 1 and Idukki, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod on June 2. Thunderstorm with lightning is likely at one or two places in the State. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea off the Kerala and Lakshadweep.

Senior IPS officer reinstated hours before his retirement

Senior IPS officer A.B. Venkateswara Rao was posted as the Commissioner of Printing, Stationery and Stores Purchase on Friday morning, shortly after his suspension was revoked by Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K.S. Jawahar Reddy. He took charge at his office hours before retiring on attaining superannuation on May 31. The State government had to reinstate Mr. Rao after the High Court's refusal on May 30 to suspend the Central Administrative Tribunal order that he deserved to be taken back.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits Tirumala temple

Amid the ongoing general elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday offered prayers at the hill temple of Lord Venkateswara, here on Saturday.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) authorities, led by its Executive Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy, accorded Mr. Amit Shah a traditional reception on his arrival at the main temple complex and led him into the *sanctum sanctorum*, where he along with his wife Sonal Shah paid their obeisances to the presiding deity.

Burning hot

Students try to protect themselves from the heatwave in Visakhapatnam on Friday. V. RAJU

Kerala govt. denies Shivakumar's 'black magic' allegations

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Friday scrambled to defend the State's renaissance legacy and progressive vision after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar alleged that political rivals had used a locality in the State as a secret sanctum to conduct occult practices against him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Shivakumar appeared to have stepped somewhat unwarily into a minefield of territorial politics by identifying the "occult den" as a private premise within a 15 km radius of the iconic Rajarajeshwari Temple at Taliparamba in Kannur, the hotbed of Left politics in Kerala, and not the temple itself.

He claimed that the black magic involved the ritualistic sacrifice of 51 animals, mainly livestock. His remark triggered a raucous debate about the occult's dark relationship to power and modernity in electoral politics, with the LS results around the corner.

Devaswom Minister K. Radhakrishnan denied Mr. Shivakumar's allegations. He said the Devaswom Ministry had launched an inquiry. Higher Education Minister R. Bindu said Kerala society had relegated such dark-age practices to the dustbin of history.

Last bastions of male exclusivity in Kerala's education fall

St. Berchmans College in Changanassery and St. Thomas College in Pala, both run by the Catholic Church in Travancore, will start admitting women students to their government-aided undergraduate programmes from this year; St. Thomas had admitted women students for three years in 1967

Hiran Unnikrishnan
KOTTAYAM

An era has ended and new doors have swung open. Two of Kerala's last men's-only colleges, which for long stood as bastions of masculine exclusivity, have finally yielded to change and will now welcome women.

St. Berchmans College in Changanassery and St. Thomas College in Pala, both run by the Catholic Church in central Travancore, will start admitting women students to their government-aided undergraduate programmes beginning this academic year. According to college authorities, this decision comes in response to a growing demand among the younger generation for co-educational institutions.

Although these institutions have offered co-educational self-financing courses since the early 2000s, their traditional courses remained off-limits to women until now. But with the soaring demand for nursing and increased international migration triggering a fall in enrollment, they have finally decided to smash the gender barrier.

St. Berchmans College in Changanassery

"The concept of educational institutions exclusively for men has long lost its significance. It now stands in our way of developing St. Thomas College into a university. It is in this context that we have decided to end the single-sex dominance in aided courses, coinciding with the launch of new four-year UG programmes," said Father Mathew Alappattumedayil, Bursar of St. Thomas College, Pala.

The administration of St. Berchmans College has also attributed this move to changing cultural sensitivities and is relying on it to arrest the dip in demand for traditional courses. With male students opting for skill-based courses for better job prospects, the college hopes the admission of women will help alleviate the crisis, especially in the life sciences.

Full circle

"History has come full circle for SB College, which admitted women students until 1954. The college became a male-only institution with the opening of Assumption College by the same management, next door," said Father Reji P. Kurien, the college Principal. Similarly, St. Thomas College admitted women students for three years starting in 1967, before instituting a gender barrier with the opening of Alphonsa College for women nearby.

The gross enrollment ratio for undergraduate programmes in core science and humanities subjects across central Travancore has been nosediving since 2022, crashing to below 50% last academic year.

Presidential felony

Trump's legal travails could polarise public discourse ahead of U.S. election

Donald Trump is now the first ever former U.S. President to become a convicted felon after a New York state jury returned a guilty verdict for all 34 charges in the case relating to hush money that he paid to adult film actor Stormy Daniels in 2016. Mr. Trump has thus been found guilty not only of the relatively less serious charge of falsifying business records – which stemmed from the $1,30,000 reimbursement that he settled with his former lawyer Michael Cohen after the payout to Ms. Daniels following their alleged affair in 2006 – but also the damaging charge of election fraud linked to his attempt to hide such information from voters on the eve of the 2016 election. The judge has set sentencing for July 11, just ahead of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where party leaders are expected to nominate Mr. Trump as their candidate for the presidential race. While the charge of falsifying business records is punishable by potentially four years in prison, at the sentencing hearing it is likely that, considering Mr Trump's age of 77 years, the lack of a previous conviction and non-violent nature of the crimes, the judge may simply impose a fine or probation. Although the allegations in three other criminal indictments that he faces, relating to federal and state charges of interference in the 2020 election, and the mishandling of classified documents, carry more severe sentences, those cases are bogged down in appeals and are unlikely to enter the trial phase before the November 5 election.

Under the U.S. constitution, the only conditions that presidential candidates would have to meet to seek election to the Oval Office are that they must be a natural born citizen, be at least 35 years old, and must have been a U.S. resident for at least 14 years. In this context, the New York conviction does not bar Mr. Trump from continuing his run as a presidential candidate. Further, it is possible that, even if he is sentenced to time in prison in one or more of the criminal cases, he could govern from behind bars. The more troubling question relates to the polarising effect that his legal travails might have on the public discourse. Reports are suggesting that the guilty verdict appears to be "... helping to unify the Republican Party's disparate factions as GOP officials across the political spectrum rallied behind their embattled presumptive presidential nominee..." Equally, poll surveys in swing States earlier this year had suggested that 53% of voters would not vote for Mr. Trump if any of his criminal cases resulted in a conviction. November 2024 might be the best and final opportunity that American voters will have to decide on whether, after all, they consider Mr. Trump fit to lead their nation.

Splash back

Private rocket flights herald prospects more valuable than commercial fortune

On May 30, a start-up named Agnikul Cosmos successfully conducted the first test flight of its rocket 'Agnibaan' in a mission called 'Suborbital Tech Demonstrator' (SOrTeD). The flight was Agnikul's fifth attempt after the first four were called off owing to suboptimal launch conditions. 'Agnibaan' is a two-stage, 14-tonne launch vehicle designed to lift small satellites to low-earth orbits. Both stages are powered by bespoke semi-cryogenic engines. The test flight flew a 'minimal' version of the rocket with one engine (or stage). Notably, many of the vehicle's components, including the engines, are 3D-printed, and Agnikul has said it will be able to build one rocket a month. With the test flight, Agnikul took 'Agnibaan' on its first steps towards being a full-fledged launch vehicle, which will expand India's commercial launch services offering in keeping with the expanding market for small satellites and the services they can provide. The roster is currently dominated by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and will soon be joined by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle, both of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). One blip Agnikul will have to address is the subpar communication of the parameters of the test flight. This is one area in which ISRO has not distinguished itself and it is important for new space startups to steer clear of the same mould.

This said, the flights of 'Agnibaan' – and Skyroot's 'Vikram' in 2022 – herald two prospects more valuable than commercial fortune. ISRO and/or scientists trained there have shared technical know-how and provided physical systems for many private missions, which these startups are now testing, cutting short the time and expenses required. Likewise, these startups are poised now to light the way for ISRO and others, potentially accelerating innovation in the sector. For example, ISRO has been testing a semi-cryogenic engine of its own that could draw from lessons learnt at Agnikul. The government must ensure that the corresponding bureaucratic and legal frameworks encourage the free flow of knowledge. Second, in April, ISRO said it had developed engine nozzles made of a carbon-carbon composite to replace the Columbium alloy nozzles on the PSLV's fourth stage. The switch increased PSLV's payload capacity by 15 kg – a significant amount for an already technologically mature launch vehicle, made possible by education and research opportunities that allowed know-how accrued in some sectors to disperse in others. This privilege is currently most pronounced in India's spacefaring enterprise. As more innovation enters the fray, it is hoped that the resulting solutions and insights will benefit everything, from aerospace to zoology.

Heat-baked Chennai can set an example for India

D. Raghunandan
is Climate Change Lead, Inhaf ClimACT-Chennai

Bindhu Bhuma
was formerly Project Associate, Inhaf ClimACT-Chennai

The year 2023 was by far the hottest ever according to a recent World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report. Global average temperatures reached 1.45° C higher than pre-industrial levels, almost touching the 1.5° C limit set in the Paris Agreement. Scientists predict that 2024 could be similar. With global emissions still growing, climate impacts are worsening. Heatwaves are sweeping through the Indian sub-continent. And, more hotter and longer-lasting heat waves are being predicted in the years to come.

The reality of the urban heat island

In cities, this problem is exacerbated by a phenomenon termed the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. Temperatures in large, crowded urban settings can be several degrees higher than in surrounding rural areas, and even hotter at night. Concrete structures and tarmac roads retain heat which stays trapped inside this "urban bubble" along with air pollutants. A lack of green spaces and waste heat from air conditioners and other machinery add to the UHI.

Chennai, a coastal city, is affected by yet another feature which is cause for worry. Humidity reduces the cooling effect of perspiration, leading to a person experiencing an elevated body temperature, debilitating heat stress, exhaustion, and even a potentially fatal heat stroke.

As shown by available heat maps, the UHI in Chennai adds between 2° to 4° C to temperatures in nearby rural areas. So, when the maximum temperature is 40° C elsewhere, parts of Chennai could register between 42° to 44° C. Under high humidity conditions, wet-bulb temperature (indicating the extent to which evaporation can take place and facilitate cooling) of around 38.5° C is considered by the World Health Organization to be "near the limits of human survivability".

In India, a heatwave is officially declared in coastal areas when the maximum temperatures are over 37° C and 4.5° C above normal. Clearly, with an UHI, heatwave conditions are quite easily breached in Chennai. The effects could be much worse, even dangerous, when compared to inland, rural areas.

India has national, State and even some district-level Heat Action Plans (HAP) to reduce morbidity and mortality, especially among the vulnerable poor, infants and the elderly. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Guidelines, which are being upgraded, and those of several States, outline measures to deal with heatwaves including early warning bulletins, and staggered work hours at outdoor construction sites, with shaded areas and temporary shelters, and strategic provisioning of drinking water and oral rehydration salts. Besides such post facto responses to heatwaves, longer term measures are needed to deal with UHI and reduce urban heat. The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has recently commissioned the preparation of presumably more detailed heat maps than what are available now. While awaiting more localised planning and actions, several broad brush measures may be readily thought of and implemented. The Chennai Climate Action Plan (CCAP) offers several meaningful suggestions including those discussed here, albeit scattered under different sections. In our view, they underestimate causative factors and, therefore, remedial measures and targets.

> The city is one of the few to have adopted a Climate Action Plan but there is scope for much improvement towards better liveability

A study and findings

Our study on Chennai and climate change (see Proposed Action Plan under www.inhaf.org/climact) looks at UHI as one among several inter-linked multi-dimensional issues. Our major findings and recommendations are discussed here.

Increasing green cover, obviously, tops the list. Green areas such as urban forests, large greens and parks, avenue and other trees, even lawns, release moisture which evaporates and cools the environs. Well-distributed green areas also influence local micro-climate, reduce air pollution, and promote health and well being. Tree-lined and shaded walkways and tracks provide pedestrians, cyclists and itinerant workers shelter from the blazing sun, and also encourage non-motorised transportation. With such multiple benefits, green areas are considered essential for sustainable urban development by UN Habitat, which recommends that green spaces be available for all citizens within 400 metres from their residence.

Regrettably, Chennai has among the lowest percentage of green cover of all the metros in India. The area under the Corporation is greener, with promising initiatives such as "*miyawaki* forests", although questions remain about the species planted. However, the expansion of the city has heavily depleted green areas and waterbodies.

Varied figures are cited for green cover in the larger Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) depending on the assessment methodology. But an estimated 12% appears reasonable (subject to correction), compared to an estimated over 20% in Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. The densely populated city-state of Singapore has an astounding 47% under green cover. Many European cities have green cover that is well over the EU norm of 30%.

Congested, poorly ventilated localities and informal settlements of the urban poor suffer the most from UHI and would benefit from green areas, parks and waterbodies that are nearby. The Master Plan III should provide for inviolable green areas and local parks with equitable access.

Rough estimates indicate that increasing green cover in the CMA to a well-distributed 25% could significantly reduce UHI by about 1.5° C or more. This could also absorb around 10% of its carbon dioxide emissions and assist moving towards a "net zero" future.

On the use of air-conditioners, energy saving

A less understood factor behind UHI is waste heat from air-conditioning. In Chennai, as in other Indian metros, roughly 50% of electricity consumption during summer is for air-conditioning alone, which vent heat out. The more the UHI, the greater the use of air-conditioning, generating even more heat in a nasty feedback loop. It is estimated that moving towards more energy-efficient (EE) air-conditioning, through a combination of mandates for the purchase of five-star or split EE air-conditioners and incentives for the exchange of older air-conditioners for new EE units (as offered by the electricity distributor in Delhi, to reduce peak load, a win-win for distributor and consumer), could reduce UHI by as much as 1.5° C.

Cities such as Shanghai and Seoul have reported a significant reduction in UHI through such strategies. Several east Asian cities have in addition mandated other energy-saving measures for air-conditioning such as having a thermostat setting of 25° C in offices and commercial buildings. Energy savings can also accrue from switching off air-conditioners (and other appliances) from the mains rather than by remote control (this leaves appliances on low power-consuming stand-by mode). Greater consciousness about climate change would undoubtedly help but savings of roughly 25% on electricity charges, would also act as a powerful driver of change.

Further, if buildings are better insulated and ventilated, and constructed using appropriate designs and materials according to "green" building codes, they would require less air-conditioning and generate less waste heat.

Total energy savings could then rise to roughly 40%-50% and reduce UHI by, say, around 3° C. There would also be a significant co-benefit – of emissions reduction from thermal power plants in Chennai.

Having permeable pavings and walkways using alternative materials, increased shrubbery along sidewalks, berms and dividers, and reflective paint on roofs, walls and streets, are other measures to reduce UHI. A sharp reduction in personal vehicles (most four-wheelers have powerful engines and airconditioners), through a rapid scaling-up of effective public transport with electric buses, would be another major contribution.

Chennai is one of a very few cities in India to have adopted a Climate Action Plan, but there is considerable scope for improvement. The city and its residents should utilise this opportunity to ensure long-term policies and measures to cool the city, improve liveability, and set an example for the rest of India.

An Odisha fortress and a hard electoral battle

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman
is the author of 'Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims' (2024) and teaches at Jamia Millia Central University, New Delhi

In modern India, no other political party has been as consistently aggressive as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been election after election in its campaign to expand its social base to all corners of India including Odisha. Not surprisingly, the State has witnessed a campaign blitzkrieg by the BJP's tall leaders, which includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi who addressed a few meetings just a couple of days before May 13, the first phase of elections in Odisha.

With a consistent decline in its social base, with nine seats out of 147 (Assembly seats) and one in Parliament in the 2019 elections, the Congress party, traditionally a dominant force, has now become an insignificant player. On the other hand, the BJP's voteshare is at 38.4%, winning eight out of 21 seats in the 2019 parliamentary election, while the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) led by Naveen Patnaik has 42.8%, winning 12 seats. In the 2019 Assembly elections, the voteshare of the BJP was 32.49 % and that of the BJD, 44.71%, respectively. Clearly, the gap between the two parties is closing with each election.

Odisha's leader

For years, Mr. Patnaik maintained that the BJD's policy has been to keep an equi-distance from the BJP and the Congress. But his party has conducted itself more as a loyal coalition partner to the Modi government than being independent. Further, the two parties did have discussions to jointly fight the 2024 election, but it did not work out. Set up in 1997, the BJD did have an alliance with the BJP that ended prior to the 2009 elections – the reason being the role of Hindutva right groups in the anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal in 2008 that received global attention. In interviews to the media, an otherwise reticent Mr. Patnaik has often described the BJP to be a communal party, but has never defined his secular politics and positioning against the BJP. Most of the time, and despite being the Odisha chief minister for five terms,

> The poll battle in Odisha could be tough for Naveen Patnaik with the BJP's aggressive plan for a decisive electoral presence

Mr. Patnaik has behaved like an astute pragmatist and never nurtured national ambitions like many an Opposition Chief Minister elsewhere.

In his long rule of 25 years, there was the shadow of two super Chief Ministers: Pyari Mohan Mohapatra, till they fell out, and now V.K. Pandian who is leading the 2024 campaign. The BJD's decision in 2009 to end the alliance with the BJP was taken by Pyari Mohan Mahapatra. Those who compare Mr. Patnaik's style of governance with Mr. Modi's Gujarat days (when Mr. Modi was the Chief Minister there), need to recognise the point that Mr. Modi never had a super Chief Minister.

No foothold for polarisation

For the BJP, the Hindu-Muslim polarisation strategy barely works in Odisha. At roughly around 2%, the Muslim population is insignificant and lives in a few clusters such as Cuttack, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, and Sungra. In Odisha, out of the 147 Assembly seats, not a single Assembly constituency is Muslim majority. Yet, during the 1980s and 1990s, there were four Muslim MLAs, who served as Ministers under the Congress and Janata party governments. But there have been none in Mr. Patnaik's tenure.

Additionally, the cult of Jagannath that has been central to Odiya identity has restrained the Ram Mandir movement. Mr. Modi, Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda appear to have recognised this, which is why their speeches in the campaign had evocations of 'Jai Jagannath'.

Several commentators, which includes Mr. Modi, are baffled by how Mr. Patnaik, despite not being well-versed with even elementary Odiya language, has been able to govern Odisha for so long. Odisha has had the distinction of many firsts. It was the first State in India to have been created on the basis of language. There was a separate Odisha movement which was triggered by a Bengali writer, who wrote '*Odiya ekta Bhasha Naye* (Odiya is not a language'). The separate Odisha movement was led by Madhusudan Das. Mr. Patnaik has pulled along because he is the son of Biju Patnaik, who, for many, is an iconic Oriya hero and epitome of Oriya nationalism. Those who are familiar with Biju Patnaik's life during the 1940s and 1950s and his role in the Second World War or in the Indonesian freedom struggle at the behest of Jawaharlal Nehru, would be in awe of his stature. Given his contribution to the anti-Emergency movement in 1977 or his role in the installation of the V.P. Singh government in 1989, the description of his life as 'dare-devil' pilot (a line in *The New York Times*'s obituary) would be clearly inadequate.

The road ahead

The BJP's campaign this time has been far more aggressive compared to what it was in 2014 and 2019. It means the BJP will see a rise in vote share, but how it would translate into seats is hard to predict. Naveen *babu*, as Mr. Patnaik is called, is likely to return as Chief Minister, but there could be the sword of Damocles – of instability – that might hang over his head. Given the BJP's hunger for power, Odisha might go the Maharashtra way, creating conditions for the BJP's hegemony.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mediation

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on *tapas* at the Vivekananda rock memorial during the last phase of the general election, is 'significant' news. Perhaps, it is to consolidate his political gains. Vivekananda was a saint who was not a part of politics.

One cannot say this about the top leader as he has filed his nomination in Varanasi for the general election! This is the significant difference. Many political parties have rightly objected before the Election Commission of India that the 'mediation move' goes against constitutional principles because secular credentials expect you to keep religion and politics apart.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Meditation has always been considered as a solemn, sacred act usually practised in solitude. What is happening at Kanniyakumari appears to be the antithesis of the true concept of meditation. Ironically, the top leader has delivered some of the most divisive speeches this country has seen, but is sitting in a memorial built in honour of one of the world's greatest proponents of communal harmony.

Ratheesh Chandran,
Thiruvalla, Kerala

Trump and guilty verdict

The verdict, that former U.S President Donald Trump is guilty in the hush-money case, has shown that no one is above the law. But still, Donald Trump is popular and many Americans think that he is fit for the office of President.

Clearly, he is at the centre-stage of American politics. In any case, Trump's is a story that is, no doubt, widely followed across the world.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

A good campaign

The photograph of an art installation depicting giant cigarettes outside a Mumbai hospital, in the context of 'World No Tobacco Day' (Some editions, "Yearly reminder", May 31), was catchy. For long, tobacco has been one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide. Therefore, it is more critical than ever before to keep tobacco products out of the reach of our youth. Maybe a catchy slogan such as "Quitters always win – winners always quit" can help in the fight against cigarette smoking. Cigarette smoking is a social menace. And, if smokers are unconcerned about their own health, let them not harm the health of non-smokers.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

The car involved in the incident is seen at the Yerawada Police Station in Pune. EMMANUAL YOGINI

A speeding car, two deaths, and a cover-up

In the early hours of May 19, the teenage son of a wealthy and influential realtor in Pune was allegedly at the wheel of a speeding car that killed two young techies. The Juvenile Justice Board granted him bail quickly, which caused a furore. Since then, the police investigation has revealed how the boy's family, the police, and doctors came together to protect him. **Purnima Sah** and **Shoumojit Banerjee** report on the twists and turns of the case

When Rajeshwari Lakhani, 66, woke up to a loud sound in the early hours of May 19 in Pune, she thought a metro wagon had fallen from the bridge outside. It was between 2.30 and 3.00 a.m. when Lakhani staggered out. "People were crowded around a car," she recalls. "The car had hit five people as well as a couple of cars parked on the street."

The side of the luxury car was bent and damaged and the windshield was smashed. Lakhani learned later that the car had rammed into a motorbike, killing two people – Anish Awadhiya, the rider, and his friend, Ashwini Koshta.

The two Information Technology professionals, both 24 years old, were on their way home after an impromptu dinner with some friends. While Koshta died on the spot, Awadhiya died on the way to the hospital, say residents of Kalyani Nagar, an affluent, residential neighbourhood in Pune, where the crash occurred.

The scene on the street, which is usually full of partygoers, was chaotic. Lakhani says the crowd pulled out four people from the car – a boy who was allegedly at the wheel, a man who she later learned works for his family as a driver, and his two friends – and began beating up the teenager. The police arrived within a few minutes and took the boy to the Yerawada police station. Many witnesses described him as "drunk". Awadhiya's friend, Akib Ramzan Mulla, 24, a resident of Pune, lodged a First Information Report (FIR).

More than a week after the incident, the spot outside Lakhani's apartment is full of flowers, candles, and posters demanding justice. If the law had taken its course, the case would have not hit the headlines every day since. Instead, what followed the incident shocked the country. An uproar on social media and protests on the streets of Pune forced the authorities to probe the case. The investigations have revealed elaborate attempts by the family, the police, and doctors to cover-up the crime involving a minor who belongs to a wealthy and influential family in Pune.

The elaborate cover-up

On May 18, the 17-year-old teenager, who is the son of a realtor, Vishal Agarwal, 50, threw a party for his friends to celebrate his performance in the Class 12 examination, say the police. The group went drinking at various resto-bars in the upscale neighbourhoods of Pune, including Blak and Cosie. Based on CCTV footage, the Pune police say the car, which had no numberplates, was being driven at a speed of 150-200 km per hour from Cosie when it hit the motorbike.

Following his detention, the minor was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said later that the Pune police sought custody of the accused and also permission to try him as an adult. According to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, people between the age of 16 and 18 years who have committed grave crimes can be tried as adults. However, the JJB denied these applications. Just 15 hours after the incident, the JJB granted the minor bail with certain conditions: that he work with the Yerawada traffic police for 15 days, write a 300-word essay on the accident, get treatment to quit drinking, and seek psychiatric counselling. Two days later, following a public outcry over these conditions, the JJB cancelled the bail and remanded the boy to an observation home until June 5. Kumar said the police have moved a sessions court again with the plea to try the boy as an adult.

> If those careless rich parents had not given their spoiled son that car, my daughter would have been alive today.
>
> **MAMATA KOSHTA**
> Mother of Ashwini Koshta

Amid the outrage, various Opposition leaders alleged that the accused was fed pizza and burgers at the police station. Kumar denied these allegations.

"Assistant Police Inspector Vishwanath Todkari arrived at the scene and informed Inspector Rahul Jagdale about the incident. Despite the severity of the accident, the officers failed to report the details to the police control room or higher officials," Kumar said. In fatal accident cases, it is mandatory to inform the Deputy Commissioner of Police, but the officers did not follow protocol, Kumar said. On May 24, the Police Commissioner suspended both the officers.

Fabian Samson, who served as a police inspector for 36 years in Pune and is now retired, believes that the suspension of the officers was unjust. "It is impossible for junior officers to take certain decisions, especially in a serious accident like this where two people died. I do not believe that the DCP was not informed. The call details records should be checked," says Fabian, who raises awareness about alcohol and drug addition in Pune.

Investigations show that there were efforts made to prove that the accused was not drunk. On May 19, at 11 a.m., the minor's blood sample was taken to Sassoon General Hospital. The police later found that the boy's father Vishal had called Dr. Ajay Taware, head of the Forensic Medicine Department at the hospital, 14 times between 8.30 and 10.40 before the blood sample was collected. As per their investigation, Dr. Taware asked Dr. Shrihari Halnor, the hospital's Chief Medical Officer, to switch the minor's blood sample with another person's blood sample.

Flowers and posters at the site of the crash in Kalyani Nagar in Pune. EMMANUEL YOGINI

The doctors at Sassoon admitted to switching the samples. The police arrested Dr. Halnor, Dr. Taware, and a staff member, Atul Ghatkamble, on May 27. Dr. Halnor has been dismissed from service and Dr. Taware and Dr. Ghatkamble have been suspended. They also recovered ₹3 lakh – ₹2.5 lakh from Dr. Halnor and ₹50,000 from Dr. Ghatkamble. The Maharashtra government has sent the dean of Sassoon General Hospital, Dr. Vinayak Kale, on leave for not taking the matter of the tampering of samples seriously.

A friend of the accused, who was in the car with him that night, has admitted to the Pune Crime Branch that the minor was at the wheel at the time of the incident. He also said that the boy had consumed alcohol before driving the car.

On May 22, the police arrested Vishal and his father, Surendra Kumar Agarwal, 77, after the family's driver, Gangaram, gave a statement that he had been kidnapped and forced to say that he was driving the car at the time of the incident. The two men were charged under Sections 365 (kidnapping) and 368 (wrongfully concealing or confining a person who has been kidnapped) of the Indian Penal Code.

The police say the boy and his friends first went to Blak, where CCTV footage shows them drinking, and then to Cosie. Apart from Vishal, the owners of the two pubs, the managers, and an employee have been booked under Sections 75 (wilful neglect of a child) and 77 (supplying a child with intoxicating liquor or drugs) of the Juvenile Justice Act. The legal age for drinking in Maharashtra is 25.

Drayson Dixon, vice-chair of Team Swacch Kalyani Nagar, a registered society that works on civic and social issues of the neighbourhood, says the authorities were forced to act only because of sustained protests. "We are deeply dissatisfied with the way the administration handled the incident. There is a loss of faith among the people of Pune in the authorities, including the police and doctors. We felt that the matter would be hushed up and the accused would get away. That is why we held press conferences, visited the site, paid homage to the victims, and put up posters. Then, Pune woke up," he says.

A leading developer in Pune

The Agarwals have been running their real estate business for four decades under the banner of Bramha. BramhaCorp, one of the leading developers in Pune, has set up luxury hotels such as Sheraton Grand, Le Meridien, Mahabaleshwar Resort and Spa, and Residency Club, along with several residential, leisure, and commercial spaces in posh localities such as Kalyani Nagar, Pune Camp, Bavdhan, Belewadi, and Budhwar Peth.

Post COVID-19, Vishal started a separate venture called Bramha Realty and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. His wife Shivani also joined the business. They have been primarily involved in residential projects. Vishal, Shivani, and Surendra Kumar are associated with at least three real estate companies, as per the disclosures made by the family to the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority: Bramha Leisures Pvt Ltd, Brahma Multicon Pvt Ltd, and B and G Developers. The Facebook page of the company boasts of Vishal's career achievements, including a corporate award for excellence in real estate from former Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

On May 22, the management of BramhaCorp issued a statement saying it had nothing to do with Vishal Agarwal. The statement read: "This is to inform you that BramhaCorp Limited is not related to Bramha Realty and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. BrahmaCorp Limited has no affiliation or association with Bramha Realty and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd in any capacity. Both the firms are completely separate entities."

A political slugfest

The incident snowballed into a political slugfest, especially when it emerged that Sunil Tingre, the legislator of the Vadgaon-Sheri Assembly segment (of which Kalyani Nagar is a part) was present at the Yerawada police station where the minor was brought after the crash.

> We are dissatisfied with the way the administration handled the incident. There is a loss of faith among the people of Pune in the authorities. We felt that the matter would be hushed up and the accused would get away. That is why we held press conferences, visited the site, and put up posters.
>
> **DRAYSON DIXON**
> Vice-chair of Team Swacch Kalyani Nagar

Tingre, who belongs to the Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar), denied that he tried to exert pressure on the police. Writing on X, he said, "On Sunday around 3 a.m., my workers called to inform me that there was a major accident in my constituency. Also, my acquaintance Vishal Agarwal called and told me that his son had met with an accident... As a responsible public representative, I went to the spot...and then to Yerawada Police Station...I told them to take appropriate action and left the police station. I did not put any pressure on the police."

On May 20, Congress workers staged a protest at the Yerawada police station demanding justice for the victims. Kasba MLA Ravindra Dhangekar, who was spearheading the campaign, says: "If we along with the residents of Pune did not raise our voice, the police would not have arrested the accused. The investigating officer and the police inspector, due to their callousness, allowed the accused to go free. Which criminal is served pizza and burgers at a police station immediately after murdering two innocent people? Why was his blood sample taken only 11 hours after the accident? The CCTV footage from the restro-bars where the accused partied, Yerawada Police Station, and Sassoon General Hospital should be released in the public domain."

Dhangekar also accused the State Excise Department of collecting bribes ranging between ₹78 lakh and ₹2.5 crore from illegal pubs. "We want Pune to remain an education hub. We don't want this pub culture," he says.

On May 26, the Congress's youth wing in Pune organised an essay writing competition at the site of the crash. The topics included 'My favourite car', 'If my father was a builder', and 'Ill effects of alcohol'. About 100 people participated.

After the lapses in the case came to light, Sonali Tanpure, wife of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) MLA and former Maharashtra minister Prajakt Tanpure, accused the 17-year-old accused of being a bully in school. In a post on X, Tanpure wrote, "This boy...was my son's classmate in school. He along with his group of friends used to harass my son...Despite complaining to the school and his parents about his bullying nature, nothing really changed for my son. We eventually had to change the school for the sake of our son's mental health...Only if his parents addressed such issues...when he was younger, such an incident would not have happened."

On May 27, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis lauded the police action while speaking to reporters. "The matter is extremely serious. The police took proper action when they realised something was wrong with the blood samples of the accused and that it had been replaced. They exposed this racket and arrested the doctors who were involved. The police department will not stop until it gets to the bottom of this case," he said.

But the Maharashtra Congress has demanded Fadnavis' resignation alleging that a Minister and an MLA of the ruling Mahayuti government had "pressured" doctors at the Sassoon Hospital to manipulate the blood samples.

On May 29, the Maharashtra Women and Child Development Commissioner set up a four-person committee to investigate the actions of the two JJB members and examine whether proper procedures were followed when bail was granted to the minor accused.

State Congress president Nana Patole has demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation. He has alleged that the son of a ruling party MLA was with the accused in the car on the night of the incident. "Many things are hidden in this case. Who is the Minister and the MLA who pressured Dr. Ajay Taware to change the samples of the accused?" Patole said at a press conference.

He also targeted Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who is the guardian minister of Pune district, for allegedly shielding those involved in the case. "Illegal pubs are rampant in Pune and Nagpur. After this case, 36 illegal pubs in Pune had to be demolished by authorities. Earlier, in Nagpur, two girls from wealthy families had mowed down two youths in a case of drunken driving. They got bail within 10 hours. In Jalgaon, too, a similar case was reported and an attempt was made to save the accused," he said.

The State government has also formed a three-member panel in the wake of the arrest of the doctors of Sassoon. The panel chairperson, Dr. Pallavi Sapale, has said a report will be sent to the government after an inquiry.

'No faith in the judiciary'

Meanwhile, in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, Mamata Koshta mourns the death of her daughter, Ashwini. "If those careless rich parents had not given their spoiled son that car, my daughter would have been alive today. That influential family should not get away with what they have done. I want stringent punishment for the boy as well as his parents," she says.

Samarpreet Koshta, Ashwini's brother, demands that the case be tried in a fast-track court. "My trust in the judiciary is shaken," he says.

The family was planning to meet Ashwini in June. Mamata says a day before the incident, her daughter informed her that she would be returning home. Ashwini had booked a ticket on June 18 to surprise her father on his birthday.

From Page One

Marathon polling season ends today

The counting of votes will take place on June 4.

"Concerned CEOs and State machineries have been directed to take adequate measures to manage the adverse impact of hot weather or rainfall wherever predicted," the Election Commission said in a statement.

The Commission said that 2,707 flying squads, 2,799 static surveillance teams, 1,080 surveillance teams, and 560 video viewing teams were monitoring the poll process around the clock to strictly and swiftly deal with any form of inducement of voters. There are also 201 international border check posts and 906 inter-State border check posts keeping a strict vigil on any illicit flow of liquor, drugs, cash, and freebies.

Trump convicted on 34 counts of felony charges

Mr. Trump sat stone-faced while the verdict was read as cheering from the street below could be heard in the hallway on the courthouse's 15th floor where the decision was revealed after more than nine hours of deliberations.

"This was a rigged, disgraceful trial," an angry Mr. Trump told reporters after leaving the courtroom. "The real verdict is going to be November 5 by the people. They know what happened, and everyone knows what happened here."

Mr. Trump faces three other felony indictments, but the New York case may be the only one to reach a conclusion before the November election, adding to the significance of the outcome.

GDP growth surges to 8.2% in FY24

"Fourth quarter GVA growth is broadly in line with expectations," Ms. Sinha added. "However, upward revisions in GVA of previous quarters have pushed up the overall growth for FY24," Ms. Sinha said. "Moreover, the divergence in GDP and GVA growth seen in Q3 has continued, with net taxes growing by 22% in Q4," she added. "This has propelled the GDP growth for Q4. The breakup of GVA for Q4 is very much on expected lines with muted agriculture growth amidst weather-related disruptions. Manufacturing sector GVA has recorded healthy growth supported by lower input cost, while robustness seen in the services sector has continued," she observed.

Growth rates in nominal GVA and nominal GDP for Q4 of FY24 have been estimated at 8.0% and 9.9%, respectively, the NSO said.

Real GDP, or GDP at constant prices, is estimated to have attained a level of ₹173.82 lakh crore in FY24, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for FY23 of ₹160.71 lakh crore, it added. Nominal GDP, or GDP at current prices, is estimated at ₹295.36 lakh crore in FY24, against ₹269.50 lakh crore in FY23, up 9.6%

Real GDP in Q4 is estimated at ₹47.24 lakh crore, against ₹43.84 lakh crore in Q4 of FY23, up 7.8%. Nominal GDP in Q4 is estimated at ₹78.28 lakh crore, against ₹71.23 lakh crore in Q4 of FY23, showing a growth rate of 9.9%.

Real GVA in Q4 is estimated at ₹42.23 lakh crore, against ₹39.74 lakh crore in the year-earlier period, showing a growth rate of 6.3%. Nominal GVA in Q4 is estimated at ₹70.97 lakh crore, against ₹65.74 lakh crore in Q4 of FY23, up 8%.

17 more dead in landslips, floods in the Northeast

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Floods and landslips killed 13 people in Assam, Manipur, and Meghalaya during the last 48 hours, taking the rainfall-related death toll in the Northeast to 17 since Wednesday.

More than six lakh people have been affected in these three States, official reports said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took stock of the situation in Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, and West Bengal, which witnessed natural disasters in the aftermath of Cyclone Remal. Over 40 people were killed in the cyclone-induced storms, floods, and landslips across Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland on May 28.

Officials in Manipur said floodwaters started receding on Friday. Over 1.88 lakh people were affected and some 24,000 houses damaged, they said.

Unlike in Manipur, the situation turned worse in Assam where six people died on Friday.

"More than 3.49 lakh people have been affected across 11 districts. Authorities have set up 187 relief camps where 28,317 people have taken shelter," an Assam State Disaster Management Authority spokesperson said.

In Meghalaya, four people were killed in a landslip at Nongpriang village in Sohra early on Thursday.

61 killed as brutal heatwave grips several States in north

23 persons involved in the polling process died of heat-related causes; with temperatures rising to 47 degrees Celsius, people of Jharsuguda, Odisha have been asked to stay indoors during the day

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

With a heatwave roiling several parts of the country, at least 61 deaths from suspected heatstroke in various parts of the country on Friday, with 23 of the fatalities being poll personnel involved in the final phase of the Lok Sabha election that is set to culminate on Saturday.

Fourteen people, including 10 who were part of the election process, have died due to heatstroke in Bihar in the last 24 hours, State officials said on Friday.

In Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district, 13 are suspected to have died from heatstroke. All of them were admitted to the Maa Vindhyavasini Autonomous State Medical College with symptoms of high fever and blood pressure. The deceased include seven home guard jawans, three sanitation workers, one clerk posted at the Chief Medical Officer's office, one *chakbandi adhikaari* (consolidation officer), and one peon in the home guard team, Dr. Raj Bahadur Kamal, the head of the hospital's administration, told PTI.

The region has been witnessing unusually high temperatures for the past several days. Polling is scheduled to be held in Mirzapur on Saturday.

An umbrella and towel are all that stand between this street vendor and Varanasi's searing heat. As per World Bank estimates, 75% of India's workforce (38 crore people) depend on heat-exposed labour. AFP

At least four deaths from heat-related causes were confirmed in Rajasthan.

In Odisha, 26 deaths have been reported through Friday, with five of them having been confirmed from sunstroke and the rest yet to be officially declared so. Several of these were among truck drivers.

In Jharsuguda, where daytime temperatures breached 47 degrees Celsius on Thursday, people have been asked not to venture out from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to heatwave conditions, schools, coaching institutes and anganwadi centres in the State will remain shut till June 8.

Four persons died of sunstroke in Jharkhand on Friday, while 1,326 others were hospitalised amid sweltering heat in most parts of the eastern State, officials said.

All district hospitals and other medical facilities have been asked to set aside air-conditioned rooms and empty beds for heatstroke patients, they said.

"Four persons, three in Palamu and one in Jamshedpur, died of heatstroke in Jharkhand. These deaths did not occur in hospitals. As many as 1,326 people were admitted to hospitals in different districts of the State due to heat-related issues. Out of these, 63 are confirmed cases of heatstroke so far," Dr. Alok Trivedi, Mission Director, National Health Mission (Jharkhand), told PTI.

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions prevailed over many parts of Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

(With inputs from State Bureaux, PTI)

Nagpur gauge falters, shows 56 degrees Celsius

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A day after the India Meteorological Department (IMD) attributed the record day-time temperature of 52.9 degrees Celsius in Delhi to a faulty instrument, another station in Nagpur incorrectly reported a temperature of 56 degrees on Friday.

The IMD said it was due to a "failure of electronic sensors". As in the case of Mungeshpur in Delhi, the erroneous temperature was recorded at an automatic weather station (AWS) in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Unlike manually operated weather stations where personnel take periodic measurements of the temperature using thermometers, AWS rely on sensors that detect changes in temperature. While considered accurate, they are complex instruments prone to errors that are harder to detect and rectify.

"The report of 56 degrees C on 30/05/2024 is not correct and not declared officially," the IMD said in a statement on Friday. "The temperature sensor at Nagpur City AWS, maintained by RMC Nagpur (Regional Meteorological Centre) is currently malfunctioning, and RMC Nagpur is working to fix it. However, it is important to note that electronic sensors can fail at extreme weather conditions," it added.

NDA members will queue up to join INDIA bloc: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before the final phase of voting in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Congress expressed confidence that "a clear and decisive" mandate for the INDIA bloc would prompt many NDA constituents to join the Opposition alliance.

Addressing a press conference along with Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinate, Congress general secretary (Communication) Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the campaign, based on the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, would lead the party to post a strong performance in several States where the Congress had been wiped out in 2019.

The Congress leaders released a compilation of 272 questions, titled '72 Days, 272 Questions, 0 Jawab Bhaag Modi Bhaag', which the party had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 72 days.

"I am saying with some sense of self-confidence that the mandate will be clear and decisive in favour of INDIA bloc. I won't give a number but I can say NDA constituents will be queueing up to join the INDIA bloc," he said.

Asked to comment on Rashtriya Janta Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav's remarks that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could do another volte-face, Mr. Ramesh said, "You will see that the results from Bihar will be surprising and there would be no need of a volte-face. But those who want to do it, we cannot stop them".

Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinate releasing their 'book of questions' in Delhi on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Contrasting the party's campaign with that of the BJP, Mr. Ramesh said 117 complaints were filed before the Election Commission (EC), including 14 against Mr. Modi, for violation of the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of People's Act. The party had lodged eight complaints against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and three against Home Minister Amit Shah. "It is unfortunate that no notices were sent to them," Mr. Ramesh said, adding, "We respect the EC but sadly impartiality was not seen during the course of the campaign".

Talking about the party's campaign, Mr. Khera said, "We started our campaign with *n* for *nyay* (justice), whereas the Prime Minister seemed obsessed with *m* for mangalsutra, mutton, *machli* (fish), *mujra* and now meditation".

Ms. Shrinate, who heads the Congress's social media cell, made a comparative analysis of the party's reach on social media. "From March 16 to May 30, if you look at the views on YouTube, we garnered 613 million views while the BJP managed 150 million views. This reflects the mood on the ground," she explained.

Mirwaiz calls for 'humane approach' to J&K problem

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Kashmir Valley chief cleric and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who was allowed to join congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar after four weeks, having been denied permission during the election phase, called for a realistic and humane approach to address the Kashmir problem.

"By next week, a new government will be formed in India. Again, we hope that whoever comes to power takes a realistic and humane approach to dealing with the Kashmir imbroglio. As for Hurriyat and me, the option for dialogue and deliberation to move forward is the best bet. It is the course that my colleagues and I have always advocated, even at the cost of harm to us," said the Mirwaiz, who delivered a Friday sermon.

HC dismisses plea seeking information from SC Collegium

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fine of ₹25,000 imposed on petitioner who had asked for data on recommendations that were pending

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition seeking a direction to the Supreme Court Collegium to provide detailed reasons while refusing to accept recommendations for the appointment of High Court judges. Petitioner Rakesh Kumar Gupta also sought directions to the top court collegium to reveal the "qualification" needed for appointment as a High Court judge, and publish monthly data related to pending recommendations and their disposal.

The High Court said it "cannot sit in appeal over the subjective satisfaction of the Supreme Court's Collegium". Terming the petition a "complete waste of judicial time", the High Court imposed a cost of ₹25,000 on the petitioner.

The petitioner, who claimed to be a victim of delay in disposal of his case pending in the Rohini district court here, said the "high" rejection rate of recommendations by the collegium of the Supreme Court was "extremely disturbing". In 2023, the rejection rate was about 35.29% against 4.38% in 2021, he claimed.

The High Court, however, said the petitioner had no *locus standi* and did not give any reason how he was a victim. It observed that the recommendations considered by the Collegium are put up on the top court's website. The requisite qualifications needed to be appointed as a judge of the High Court are laid down under Article 217 of the Constitution, it said.

Ahilyabai Holkar was an ideal ruler, says RSS chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday described the late Holkar queen of Indore, Ahilyabai Holkari, as the ideal ruler in a message marking the 299th birth anniversary of the queen. The late queen was the ruler of Indore for nearly three decades in the 18th century, after being widowed early in life, and was considered not only progressive but also contributed to greatly to the revival of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Maheshwari weaving style.

"Even today, her character is ideal for us. Unfortunately, she became a widow early in life, but despite being a single woman, she not only managed her large kingdom, but also made it bigger, and not only made the kingdom bigger, but also ran it as a good governance," he said.

ED arrests dark web drug 'vendor' of Uttarakhand who ran international syndicate

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Arrest follows U.S. request; accused sold controlled substances online and got paid in cryptocurrency

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), following a request from the U.S. authorities, has arrested a resident of Uttarakhand for allegedly operating an international drug trafficking group.

Banmeet Singh, a resident of Haldwani, has been booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. It is alleged that he, along with his brother Parvinder Singh and others, had been operating the drug trafficking syndicate named "Singh DTO (Drug Trafficking Organisation)".

In April 2019, Banmeet was arrested in London. The U.S. later secured his extradition. This April, a U.S. court sentenced him to five years in prison for selling controlled substances on dark web marketplaces and ordered him to forfeit about $150 million. However, as he had already spent the duration in jail, he was released. Subsequently, he came back to India.

Crypto transactions

The brothers used vendor marketing sites on the dark web, numerous free advertisements on clear web websites, and a network of narcotics and controlled-substance distributors and cells to sell drugs in the U.S., the U.K. and other European countries. "The Singh Organisation received the drug trafficking proceeds through sale on dark web markets, then laundered those proceeds through cryptocurrency transactions," said the ED.

The accused persons used the moniker "Liston" on a variety of dark web markets, including Silk Road 1, Alpha Bay, and Hansa. "As per information, they received at least 8,088 bitcoins associated with the 'Liston' moniker, which is nothing but the proceeds of crime through sale of drugs in various countries. Banmeet Singh has surrendered 3,838 bitcoins (with an equivalent value of ₹2,000 crore) before the U.S. authorities," it said.

On April 26, the ED raided multiple locations linked to the accused persons and arrested Parvinder the next day. He is currently lodged in Dehradun's Suddhowala Jail under judicial custody. The agency searched their residence in Haldwani on May 1 and seized 268.22 bitcoins valued at about ₹130 crore purportedly at Parvinder's instance.

Form panel to survey Assam reserve forest, says NGT

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to constitute a three-member committee to survey a part of a reserve forest on the Assam-Nagaland border allegedly diverted for the establishment of an Assam police commando battalion.

The NGT also issued notices to the Environment Ministry, the Assam government, the Assam Forest Department, and two others to file counter-affidavits within four weeks. This followed the hearing of a petition by eastern Assam-based environmental activist Rohit Choudhury.

The petition also cited documents to show the forest land was used for non-forestry activities without the prior permission of the Union government, in contravention of law.

ELECTIONS 2024

Stalled attempts to interfere in polls: OpenAI

OpenAI, the creators of ChatGPT, has said it acted within 24 hours to disrupt deceptive uses of AI in covert operations focused on the Indian elections, leading to no significant audience increase. In a report on its website, OpenAI said STOIC, a political campaign management firm in Israel, generated some content on Indian elections alongside about the Gaza conflict. Commenting on the report, Minister of State for Electronics & Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "It is absolutely clear and obvious that @BJP4India was and is the target of influence operations. Describing its operations, OpenAI said activity by a commercial company in Israel called STOIC was disrupted. Only the activity was disrupted, not the company. PTI

OpenAI said activity by a commercial company in Israel was disrupted. GETTY IMAGES

SC quashes plea for repolling in Bihar's Munger

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition filed by a Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate seeking a direction to the Election Commission to conduct re-polling in more than 40 booths in Munger Lok Sabha seat of Bihar. A Vacation Bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and P.B. Varale told the counsel appearing for the candidate Kumari Anita to approach the Patna High Court. The court recorded the petition to be dismissed as withdrawn. The petition had alleged "serious manipulation, booth capturing and rigging by JD(U) workers with the help of officials". The petitioner said she was physically assaulted for complaining to the officials about the alleged misdeeds. Detailed complaints were filed with authorities, the plea said.

> The Congress has no complaints about either EVMs or the electoral process when it wins but whines endlessly when it expects a rout
>
> **J.P. NADDA**
> BJP president

Steps taken for counting in rain-hit Assam

Comprehensive measures, including power backup and arrangements for feeding data to the official portal from alternative locations, will be in place to ensure glitch-free counting of votes in Assam, where communication links have been hit due to rain, CEO Anurag Goel said. PTI

> Those BJP members who have the audacity to rig Chandigarh Mayor poll in front of cameras can resort to any kind of fraud to win the election
>
> **AKHILESH YADAV**
> Samajwadi Party chief

BJP candidate Mithilesh Tiwari greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting. ANI

An 'insider versus outsider' battle in Buxar

Amit Bhelari
BUXAR

Buxar is historically known as the location of the battle of Chausa between Mughal emperor Humayun and Afghan warlord Sher Shah Suri. In the Lok Sabha election, however, the battle of Buxar in western Bihar is being branded as "insider versus outsider", with the BJP's Mithilesh Tiwari being given the "outsider" tag by the Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) Sudhakar Singh and his supporters.

Mr. Singh is the son of RJD State president Jagdanand Singh and the MLA from the Ramgarh Assembly seat, which falls within the bounds of the Buxar parliamentary constituency. Mr. Tiwari, who hails from Dumaria village in Gopalganj district, around 150 km from Buxar, hopes that he can follow the precedent set by sitting BJP MP Ashwini Choubey, who won the Buxar seat despite hailing from Bhagalpur.

Mr. Singh was an Agriculture Minister in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's previous Cabinet, but had to quit after he spoke out against Mr. Kumar. At a recent public meeting in Hakimpur village, he recalled that, as State Agriculture Minister, he had wanted to implement the *mandi* system in Bihar to benefit the farming community, but that the Chief Minister had never supported the proposal.

Apart from the farmer focus, Mr. Singh's speeches invariably feature a poke at Mr. Tiwari's supposed "outsider" status. The BJP candidate, however, is intent on leveraging the fact that Buxar borders Varanasi in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the constituency represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his campaign events, Mr. Tiwari makes sure to mention this, seeking votes in Mr. Modi's name and vowing to develop Buxar as a mini Kashi.

Independent threats

Both candidates face a similar threat in the form of Independent candidates. Mr. Tiwari must take on Anand Mishra, a former Superintendent of Police (SP) in Assam's Lakhimpur district, who hails from Buxar and has a good hold among Brahmin voters.

Similarly, the RJD candidate, Mr. Singh, faces a challenge from Independent Dadan Singh Yadav, alias Dadan Pahalwan, a former MLA and Minister who is likely to cause a dent in the Yadav vote bank. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Anil could also draw a significant chunk of Buxar's Dalit votes; in the last general election, the BSP candidate stood third.

Since 1996, Buxar has been a stronghold of the BJP, whose candidates have won the seat in every election since then, except in 2009, when Mr. Singh's father bagged the seat with a margin of just 2,000 votes.

"The only thing they [BJP] are doing is dividing the society on the lines of religion. The PM is only talking about the letter 'M', and his candidate is doing the same in Buxar. The PM is talking about mutton, mujra, Muslims and mandir, but not talking about *mehangai* [price rise]. I am not bothered about Independent candidates because they play the role of vote-*katwa* (vote cropper)," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Brahmins are the dominant community in the constituency, with a population of about four lakh, followed by 3.5 lakh Yadavs and nearly three lakh Rajputs. There are 2.5 lakh Bhumihars and 1.5 lakh Muslims.

In Nitish's fortress, three-time JD(U) MP is up against CPI(ML) candidate

The Nalanda Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar has been a JD(U) stronghold for the past 28 years; the party has fielded sitting MP Kaushalendra Kumar, while the CPI(ML) is banking on JNU alumnus Sandeep Saurav to wrest the seat

GROUND REPORT

Amarnath Tewary
NALANDA

Nalanda, also known as 'Kurmistan', given the dominance of Kurmis, is the home district of Bihar Chief Nitish Kumar. Kurmis belong to the Other Backward Classes (OBC).

For the past 28 years, the Nalanda Lok Sabha constituency has been a stronghold of the Janata Dal(U). The party has fielded three-time MP Kaushalendra Kumar, who faces Sandeep Saurav of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist). The CPI (ML) is part of the INDIA bloc.

Nalanda is one of the few Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar where Mr. Kumar, a Kurmi himself, is seen as a bigger crowd-puller than Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"For us, Nitish Kumar is everything. He has given so much to us that we had not seen for decades," Awadhesh Singh, a senior citizen from Kalyanbigha village, told *The Hindu*. "Who will give us so much in terms of development?" he asked.

Kalyanbigha is Mr. Kumar's ancestral village.

Every year, Mr. Kumar visits Kalyanbigha thrice to offer floral tributes to his parents and wife on their death anniversaries. Mr. Kumar was elected MLA for the first time in 1985 from this Assembly constituency.

"When he is providing us with food and development, who will we vote for?" said a a group of young voters sitting outside the memorial park on a sweltering afternoon.

The headmaster of the village's upgraded middle school, Vinod Choudhary, too agreed that Kalyanbigha had everything a small town could boast of.

Mr. Kumar won the Lok Sabha election from Nalanda in 2004, but resigned the next year to become the Chief Minister of Bihar.

His mentor, veteran socialist leader George Fernandes, won from the Nalanda Lok Sabha constituency thrice - in 1996, 1998, and 1999. Earlier, Communist Party of India (CPI) candidate Vijay Kumar Yadav had won the seat thrice. In 2005, JD(U) leader Ramswaroop Prasad, who had previously represented the constituency in 1989 as a Congress candidate, won the election.

"After 33 years of the Nalanda Lok Sabha seat's political history, the Left candidate is contesting against a candidate having the support of right-wing forces," CPI(ML) leader Dhirendra Jha said.

At the Azizia madrasa in Bihar Sharif, district headquarters of Nalanda, caretaker Imam Mohammed Shahabuddin, and madrasa in-charge Mohammed Shakir agreed that an "atmosphere of hate" had gripped the country and Bihar was no exception. "We will take the decision to vote later," they said, when asked about their choice. In March 2023, during the Ram Navami procession, anti-social elements torched the 110-year-old *madrasa* and the library located inside it, burning 4,500 books, including 250 handwritten ones. "The scars of the fire are not only on the walls of the library and mosque but also on our hearts and souls. The government, though, was quick in announcing relief and help," they said.

In the nearby premises of a temple at the Noor Sarai Bazaar, Dukhi Ram and Lekha Paswan were chatting with others about the election. Asked if they would vote for the JD(U) candidate, they responded, "Who told you so?"

"The *maale* (as the CPI-ML is known locally) candidate is so well educated... He can also get our vote," they said.

The CPI(ML)'s Mr. Saurav is an alumnus of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

"The issues of the area like unemployment and migration of youth for their livelihood have remained the same for decades," Mr. Jha said.

The Nalanda Lok Sabha constituency comprises seven Assembly segments, of which five are represented by the JD(U), and one each by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The constituency has 26% Kurmi, 19% Koeri, 17% Yadav, and 12% Muslim voters. A sizeable number of Dalit Paswan voters (1.2 lakh), Kushwaha (one lakh), and Bania voters (1.6 lakh) are also present in the constituency.

Nalanda votes in the final phase of the Lok Sabha election on Saturday.

Strong support: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with JD(U) candidate Kaushalendra Kumar in Nalanda, and, right, CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya with Lok Sabha election candidate Sandeep Saurav and other leaders at Bihar Sharif. ANI/PTI

Congress says it won't take part in exit poll debates

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress has decided not to participate in any Lok Sabha exit poll debates on the television channels and said it does not want to indulge in speculation and slugfest for Television Rating Point (TRP).

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the voters had cast their votes and their verdict had been secured. "The results will be out on 4th June. Prior to that, we do not see any reason to indulge in speculation and slugfest for TRP," he said in a statement shared on X.

"The Indian National Congress will not participate in the debates on Exit Polls. The purpose of any debate should be to inform the people. We will happily partake in debates from 4th June onwards," Mr. Khera said.

The decision was taken after consultations within the party, the sources said.

'Proof of defeat'

Hitting out at the Opposition party, BJP president J.P. Nadda said the Congress's decision to not participate in exit poll debates amounted to an "unequivocal confirmation" that it had conceded the election.

What is more disconcerting, Mr. Nadda said, was the Congress's antipathy towards the largest democratic process in the world, which saw the participation of over 960 million aspirations.

967 companies of Central forces deployed in Bengal for last phase

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Election Commission has deployed 967 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) for polling across nine constituencies in West Bengal in the seventh and final phase of the Lok Sabha election on Saturday. The State police is also deploying 33,292 personnel in these constituencies, making this the highest deployment of security forces for a single phase of polling in the State during this election.

The highest concentration of the Central forces – 246 CAPF companies – are being deployed in the Kolkata police jurisdiction, followed by 160 companies in the Baruipur police district, 116 in the Basirhat police district, 110 in the Diamond Harbour police district, and 114 in the Sundarban police district.

Polling will take place in the State capital, its suburbs, and the Sundarbans, in the nine constituencies of Kolkata Dakshin and Kolkata Uttar, Dum Dum, Barasat, Diamond Harbour, Jadavpur, Basirhat, Joynagar, and Mathurapur.

Trinamool vs ISF

There are 1.63 crore voters – 83.19 lakh men, 80.20 lakh women, and 538 third-gender people – eligible to exercise their franchise in 17,470 polling stations. There are 124 candidates in the fray in this phase.

On the eve of polling, violence erupted at Bhangar in the South 24 Parganas district, which falls under the Jadavpur Lok Sabha seat, with clashes breaking out between Trinamool Congress and Indian Secular Front (ISF) supporters. Five Trinamool supporters were injured in the violence that took place as party workers returned home on Thursday night.

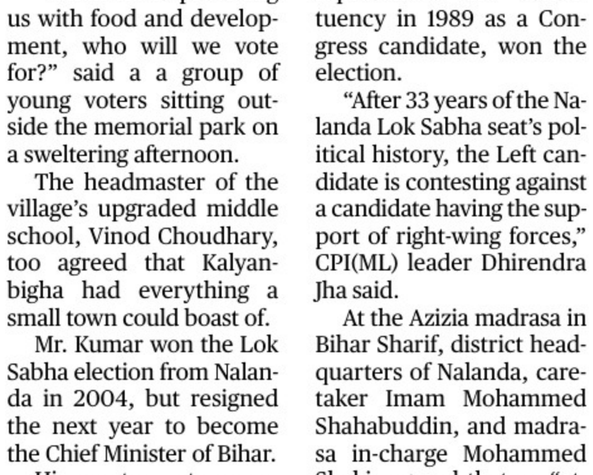
ISF MLA Nawsad Siddique, however, dismissed the allegations, claiming that it was Trinamool workers who had hurled bombs at ISF supporters, though it was Trinamool supporters who were injured in the incident. Two ISF supporters were arrested by the police in connection with the violence.

Bombs hurled

A day earlier, there were reports of supporters of Saukat Mollah, the Trinamool MLA from Canning Purba, allegedly hurling bombs at ISF workers. The Election Commission has directed Mr. Mollah not to step out of his Canning Purba constituency on polling day.

As Kolkata and the adjoining areas head to the polls, the region witnessed pre-monsoon showers. In remote areas of the Sundarbans, election officials faced difficulties in reaching polling stations. In some areas, there was water logging outside polling booths.

The weather forecast for Saturday includes generally cloudy skies with rain or thunderstorms.



Strict watch: Security personnel wait to escort polling officials with EVMs, at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

Lok Sabha gears up to welcome newly elected members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The new members will be welcomed and provided transit accommodation in Western Court

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has taken a host of measures to welcome the newly elected members of the 18th Lok Sabha, including setting up guideposts at all three domestic terminals at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and railway stations from June 4 to June 9.

The new members will be welcomed in the Parliament House Annexe and provided transit accommodation in Western Court till they are allocated houses in the national capital, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said on Friday.

Real-time entry

According to a statement from the Secretariat, a team has been assigned the task of keeping a close tab on the Election Commission website on June 4, when the votes will be counted, and entering the contact details of successful candidates on a near real-time basis. The team, using a software, will be able to check whether the successful candidate is a new MP or has been re-elected.

To cut red tape, the members will not be required to sign multiple physical forms with various branches, saving a substantial amount of time. As many as 70 personnel have been trained to man the registration counter in shifts. The liaison officers have been imparted training to make data entry using tablets as the MPs wait in the designated area. Lok Sabha Secretary-General Utpal Kumar Singh carried out an inspection of the preparations on Friday and is monitoring the arrangements, it said.

INBRIEF

Six officials suspended for 'dereliction of duty' in J&K

Six officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Transport Department were suspended on Friday, a day after 22 passengers were killed and 57 injured in a bus accident in the Akhnoor area of Jammu. The suspension was carried out in the wake of reports of dereliction of duty and that the bus was overcrowded. An official said a motor vehicle inspector and a junior assistant of Lakhanpur check post were among those suspended. The authorities have set up an inquiry into the accident and will submit the report within seven days. Paramvir Singh, Additional Secretary, is investigating the allegations.

Anti-militancy operation launched in Poonch

Security forces launched an anti-militancy operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, following a brief exchange of fire between militants and security forces in the Marha Bufliaz area on Thursday. Officials said the search operation was aimed at tracking down the fleeing militants. The exchange of fire was reported on Thursday night. A patrol of security forces, which had launched a search operation following a tip-off about the presence of militants in the area, came under fire. The militants could not be spotted after the stand-off, officials said.

Work on next-generaton Coast Guard vessel begins

Construction commenced on the first next-generation offshore patrol vessel (NGOPV) for the Indian Coast Guard on Friday with the steel-cutting ceremony conducted at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in Mumbai. The first vessel is scheduled for delivery by May 2027 under a ₹1,614.89-crore contract for six vessels signed by the Defence Ministry with MDL in December 2023. "The NGOPVs, designed to meet the evolving challenges of maritime security, are equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and equipment. These vessels are capable of achieving a maximum continuous speed of 23 knots and covering a distance of up to 5,000 nautical miles," the Coast Guard said. The vessels will have integral twin-engine helicopter facilities.

Pune car crash: police get nod to question 17-year-old

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on Friday granted permission to the Pune Police to question the 17-year-old minor involved in the luxury car accident that left two people dead. The JJB has permitted the police to question the teenager for two hours on Saturday, said sources, adding that the authorities would corroborate the evidence obtained from witness testimony and other sources by questioning the juvenile. As per norms, the interrogation of a minor requires the presence of a parent. Since the boy's father is in jail and his mother is reportedly "not reachable", a member of the JJB will be present during the questioning, said sources.

U.P. minorities commission seeks action against RPF

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Minorities Commission called for action against the Railway Protection Force (RPF) officials who detained madrasa students from the Kanpur Central railway station last month, adding that the action was "discriminatory" and "humiliating".

The commission demanded punitive action against the RPF sub-inspector and the rest of the staff involved in the incident.

On April 24, a group of students, hailing from Purnea in Bihar were detained by the RPF. The group of 14 students was sent to a juvenile home for failing to provide requisite documents. "The students were put in a ward with juvenile lawbreakers with criminal antecedents... We, the U.P. Minorities Commission, is of the opinion that strict action should be taken against these people and the Chairman should be informed about it," the letter written by the Secretary, Shakil Ahmed Siddiqui, said.

Passengers sweat it out as Air India flight faces glitch

They force the pilot to cancel take-off as cabin was too hot; after waiting for two hours inside the plane due to fly to San Francisco, they were allowed to deboard; DGCA issues a show-cause notice

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

It was an unending ordeal for passengers of Air India's Delhi-San Francisco flight on Thursday who refused to allow their flight to take off as it was too hot inside the aircraft cabin, only to find themselves stranded for nearly 40 hours.

"Help us, we will not fly," appealed passengers who surrounded the cockpit and demanded that they be allowed to disembark on Thursday.

In the next 30 hours, they would be shuttled between the airport and the hotel thrice, and also be taken all the way to the runway on their second attempt to fly to the United States only to find the aircraft returning towards the terminal.

In videos shot by passengers and shared with *The Hindu*, many travellers can be seen fanning themselves with handkerchiefs and magazines.

A video grab shows passengers waiting to leave the plane after they found it too hot in the cabin on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Others can be seen requesting the cabin crew for cold towels and applying water droplets from the surface of soft drink cans to children to comfort them. There were also a large number of senior citizens on the flight and many complained that they were feeling unwell.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued the airline a show-cause notice on Friday for causing discomfort to the affected passengers.

On the first attempt at take-off, boarding for the 3.30 p.m. departure commenced at 7 p.m.

Airport sources say the airline did not have an aircraft for the flight, and an old Boeing 777 was towed from a parking bay where it spent the whole day standing in temperatures hovering above 45 degrees Celsius.

As a result, passengers started to complain of heat and suffocation inside the aircraft once boarding started, according to 62-year-old Bharat Singh, who spoke to *The Hindu* on Friday.

Pilots say that an aircraft the size of a Boeing 777 needs a lot more cooling, and the inbuilt auxiliary power unit used for air conditioning was not effective given the high temperatures in Delhi.

The Boeing 777 aircraft, which was being used on Thursday, is over 15 years old, and Air India sources said the plane had "technical issues".

Though passengers were allowed to disembark from the plane after spending nearly two hours, their ordeal was far from over.

They spent another two hours inside the aerobridge before being allowed inside the terminal building and were shuttled thrice between the airport and hotel before they could take an alternate flight on Friday. But this flight too returned from the runway to the bay shortly after 7 p.m.

The flight finally took off at 9.55 p.m.

Bomb threat disrupts flight operations in Srinagar

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Srinagar International Airport was put on high alert on Friday following a bomb threat call received about an aircraft heading from Delhi to Srinagar. However, the call turned out to be a hoax, officials said.

Officials said the incident unfolded when the Air Traffic Control, Srinagar, received information about a "threatening call". It sparked off a swift and coordinated response from the Central Industrial Security Force. However, the threat was deemed "non-credible".

"Normal operations have resumed at the Srinagar airport," the officials said.

The bomb threat call was aimed at Vistara flight UK 611, which was carrying 177 passengers. The flight operations at Srinagar airport were halted for over two hours.

"All the necessary checks have been conducted and the aircraft has been cleared to resume operations," a spokesperson of Vistara airlines said.

EC gave nod to 95,000 rallies in West Bengal, highest in the country

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

852 kg of explosives, 1,605 crude bombs, and 707 firearms were also seized during the campaign

The Election Commission accepted 94,975 applications for holding rallies and meetings during the Lok Sabha election campaign in West Bengal. More than 1.19 lakh applications were made to the EC during the seven-phase polling, and the commission granted permission to 94,975 rallies, public meetings, and other forms of campaign.

Sources in the EC said the number of applications and the permission granted were the highest in the country. West Bengal elects 42 Lok Sabha MPs, while Uttar Pradesh elects 80, and Maharashtra 48.

The data from the Suvidha portal of the EC show that 10,245 permissions were granted in North 24 Parganas district, where two Lok Sabha seats – Basirhat and Barasat – go to the polls on Saturday.

Another interesting set of statistics that has emerged from the campaign is the number of applications submitted to the EC for the use of helicopters and helipads. The EC allowed 669 of 890 applications it received in West Bengal for the use of helicopters. The Trinamool Congress received permission to use helicopters on 521 occasions and the BJP 124.

The EC also seized cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals, and freebies amounting to ₹440 crore in the State. Liquor worth ₹110 crores, freebies amounting to ₹91 crore, and ₹34 crore in cash were seized during the campaign

Nearly 852 kg of explosives, 1,605 crude bombs, and 707 firearms were also seized during the campaign.

Railways to construct canopy bridges across track in Assam gibbon habitat

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has earmarked funds to construct canopy bridges for India's only ape to move across a railway track bifurcating its prime habitat in eastern Assam.

A 1.65-km-long track – set to be doubled and electrified – divides the 2,098.62-hectare Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary in Jorhat district. The sanctuary has the largest concentration of the Hoolock gibbon, one of 20 species of apes on earth.

The gibbon, known for its vocalisation, spends much of its time on the upper canopy of tall trees, mostly the hollong (*Dipterocarpus macrocarpus*). The fragmentation of the forest along the track has disturbed the arboreal nature of the ape, putting it at risk while crossing the track.

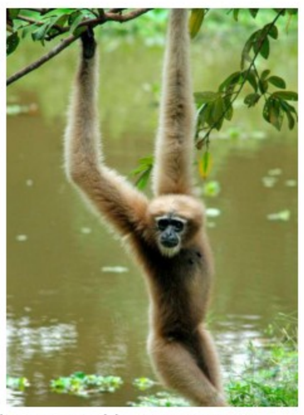
"We decided to install canopy bridges inside the sanctuary to facilitate the movement of the gibbons across the track. The decision was made in consultation with the Assam State Forest Department, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and other stakeholders," NFR spokesperson Sabyasachi De said.

These canopy bridges, designed by the WII in consultation with the NFR, will be constructed at identified points to facilitate easy movement of the arboreal species between the two halves of the sanctuary partitioned by the Mariani-Dibrugarh railway track.

"The ends of the canopy bridges, as well as the knots, will be secured and clamped or tightened using appropriate and high-grade fastening materials and techniques. As a fail-safe mechanism, safety nets will be installed below the main twin-rope bridge to save the species accidentally falling off the bridges," Mr. De said.

The canopy rope bridges will be installed in such a way that lianas and creepers can be guided along them to make the bridges look as natural as possible, railway officials said.

The NFR had undertaken efforts in the past to build an artificial canopy bridge while the State Forest Department and Assam-based biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak had erected a natural canopy bridge in a part of the sanctuary frequented by the gibbons. The gibbons did not use the artificial bridge but used the natural canopy.



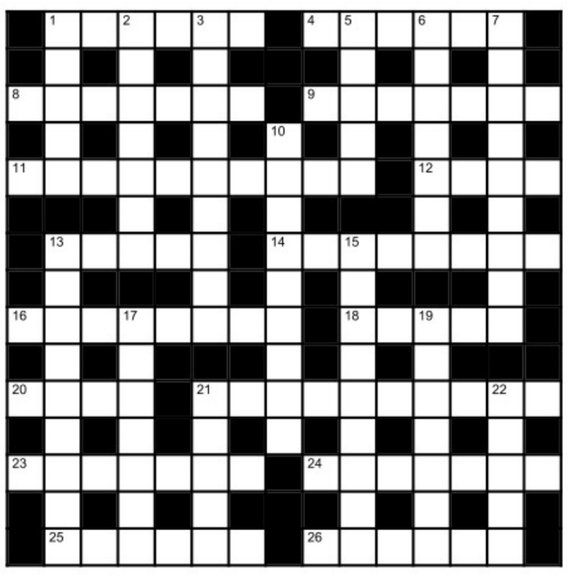
The canopy bridge designed by the Wildlife Institute of India for installation in a gibbon sanctuary in Assam, and, right, a Hoolock gibbon. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

TH CROSSWORD + 14190

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Bad wife - one cooked without any love (6)
4 Language college gets name revoked after incurring loss (6)
8 Photographs displaying champion liquor (7)
9 Mostly crazy new muse finally follows church artist (7)
11 Cabby arrived with IT problem around ten (10)
12 Charge to get daughter supply (4)
13 High-frequency trading casino banned admission initially (5)
14 Study of European river's gloomy, sadly (8)
16 Mainly guttural noises starting to come out of birds (8)
18 Calmly evacuated sites even evacuating those that are filled with liquid (5)
20 Country's queen followed terrorist organization (4)
21 Site of natural beauty from Far West stunned, captivated everyone (10)
23 Posh girl got embarrassed when escorted (7)
24 Lie with Cupid - returning with disease (7)
25 500 test series runs (6)
26 Pin backend in toilet (6)

Down

1 Pagan religion with international acceptance making a comeback (5)
2 Well-deserved biopic on dignitary screened (7)
3 Observed a crime - lips almost trembling (9)
5 Rich man from Europe married English Queen (5)
6 Team leader got scolding - got sad (7)
7 College's concerned with extremes of channels (9)
10 VIP is too shocked when taken around edge of slum and lays an egg (9)
13 Half of Russia's upset, forced, and shocked (9)
15 Marylebone Cricket Club gets micro chips - mainly Korean and American (9)
17 Romances at game - right away getting suspended at the start (7)
19 Birdfights? (7)
21 In which place husband used to be welcoming.. (5)
22 Rule about capturing male animal (5)

SUDOKU

				8	9		5	
9				6	2			
		2				9		3
6				7			4	1
5	8						9	7
7	9			4				5
2		6				1		
			1	2				9
	1		4	5				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

T	O	W	E	L		S	T	E	A	M	R	O	O	M
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E	X	T	R	E	M	E		F	U	M	I	E	S	T
F		H		L		K		E		O		R		H
O	L	D	B	O	Y		A	C	E	R	B	A	T	E
I		R		W		G		T		I				R
L	U	A	U		A	R	A	U	C	A	R	I	A	S
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B	A	N	D	O	B	A	S	T	S		J	I	G	S
A				T		T		E		M		O		P
R	U	B	D	O	W	N	S		T	A	T	T	O	O
R		I		T		I		V		Y		C		U
A	I	R	H	O	L	E		E	N	D	E	A	R	S
G		T		W		C		T		A		R		A
E	N	H	A	N	C	E	R	S		Y	O	D	E	L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	5	2	9	1	8	6	7
1	8	2	5	7	6	4	3	9
7	6	9	4	8	3	2	5	1
2	1	4	3	6	9	5	7	8
9	5	3	7	2	8	6	1	4
8	7	6	1	4	5	3	9	2
6	9	1	8	5	4	7	2	3
5	4	7	9	3	2	1	8	6
3	2	8	6	1	7	9	4	5

FAITH

Murugan's qualities

Arunagirinatha refers to Murugan's qualities through six different words – *ullasan*, *nirakulan*, *yogan*, *ithan*, *sallabhan* and *vinodhan*, said So. So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse. He is always joyful, and hence He is *ullasan*. This is a reference to Murugan at the Thirupparanakundram shrine. He is *nirakula*. *Akula* means to be in a state of confusion or agitation. Murugan is free from any such anxiety, and hence He is *nirakulan*. *Nirakulan* denotes Murugan at Tiruchendur. He is *yogan*, because He is worshipped by yogis. They worship Him because He is the embodiment of *jnana*. Here, Arunagirinatha has in mind the deity of Pazhani. He is *ithan* (*hithan*), the One who gives peace and happiness to His devotees. Here, the reference is to Muruga as Swaminatha in Swamimalai. *Sallabhan* means the One who by being the personification of joy, gives joy to His devotees. Here, the deity of Tiruttani is being referred to. He is *Vinodhan* – the amazing One, whose deeds are marvellous. Murugan is eternally youthful.

In *Kandar Anubhuti*, Arunagirinatha asks Lord Muruga to give him the word that leads to Muruga's feet, namely the *pranava*. *Jnanis* like Arunagirinatha do not care for wealth. If a *jnani* loses his ego, then it will give him happiness. God is approachable only when "I", "me" and "mine" are vanquished.

INBRIEF

Aurobindo arm inks pact with MSD; to invest ₹1,000 crore

Aurobindo Pharma's subsidiary TheraNym has signed a master service agreement with pharma major Merck Sharpe & Dohme Singapore Trading Pte. Ltd. (MSD) for contract manufacturing of biologicals. TheraNym intends to invest about ₹1,000 crore for establishing a manufacturing facility with large scale bioreactors for any mammalian cell culture product and a vial filling isolator line for manufacturing upto 25-30 mn vials per annum, Aurobindo said in a filing.

Natco seeks U.S. FDA nod for copy of Pfizer drug, faces suit

Natco Pharma has been named defendant in a lawsuit filed in the U.S. by Pfizer Inc and Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals amid the abbreviated new drug application it has submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for a generic version of migraine drug Rimegepant Sulfate. "We believe our ANDA may be eligible for 180 days of marketing exclusivity at the time of potential launch of the product under certain circumstances," Natco said in a filing.

LIC raises stake in agrochem company PI Industries

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India said its stake in PI Industries, as an institutional investor, had gone past the 5% mark after it acquired 72,000 shares of the agrochemicals firm from the open market at an average cost of ₹3,558.29 each. The holding was raised, as an investment function, from 4.95% (75,19,910 shares) to 5% (75,91,910 shares) on May 30, LIC said.

On Friday, PI Industries shares remained flat at ₹3,551.15 apiece on the BSE.

April core sector output rises 6.2% as electricity, steel buoy

All sectors except fertilizers logged growth; fertilizer output slid 0.8% in April compared with a fall of 1.3% in March; cement output growth slowed to 0.6% in April from the 10.6% pace seen in March

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's infrastructure (core sector) output in April rose 6.2% y-o-y, quickening from a revised 6% growth in March, government data showed, backed by strong electricity and steel output.

Infrastructure output, which accounts for 40% of industrial production, measures activity in eight sectors, including refinery products and electricity.

Coal production grew 7.5%, while electricity generation rose 9.4%. In March, coal production rose 8.7% and electricity generation grew 8.6%.

Gaining momentum

Infrastructure output measures activity in eight sectors, including refinery products, power

- Electricity generation rose 9.4% in April vs. 8.6% in March
- Steel output climbed 7.1% against the 6.4% increase a month earlier
- Crude-oil production rose 1.6% in April vs. 2% in March

Steel production grew 7.1% year-on-year in April, against a 6.4% increase a month earlier. Natural gas output registered a growth of 8.6% in April, while it rose 6.3% in March.

Cement production rose 0.6% in April year-on-year, its growth slowing compared with March's 10.6% rise. Crude-oil production rose 1.6% in April, compared with a 2% growth a month earlier. All sectors but fertilizers grew.

Fertilizer production registered a fall of 0.8% in April, compared with a fall of 1.3% in March, while refinery products rose 3.9%, against a 1.5% rise in the previous month.

China factory activity dips as property pain persists

Reuters
BEIJING

China's manufacturing activity unexpectedly fell in May, keeping alive calls for fresh stimulus as a protracted property crisis continues to weigh on business, consumer and investor confidence.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) dropped to 49.5 in May from 50.4 in April, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Friday, below the 50-mark separating growth from contraction and missing analysts' forecast of 50.4.

The disappointing number adds to a series of recent indicators showing the $18.6 trillion economy is struggling to get back on its feet, eroding earlier optimism seen after better-than-expected output and trade data.

"I think the data particularly reflects soft domestic demand, the housing sector continued to worsen and retail sales were not strong," said Xu Tianchen, senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit. "The May reading may indicate a temporary blip. We'll probably see an improvement in June as new government policies start to impact, such as the property rescue plan and the issuance of special sovereign bonds," he added.

The PMI's sub-indices for new orders and new export orders both tipped back into contraction after 2 months of growth, while employment continued to shrink.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,961	0.10
US Dollar	83.42	-0.15
Gold	72,900	0.06
Brent oil	81.56	-0.93

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3411.35	217.10
Adani Ports	1437.40	53.90
Apollo Hosp	5839.20	72.75
Asian Paints	2881.20	-2.50
Axis Bank	1162.15	-5.80
Bajaj Auto	9084.75	116.25
Bajaj Finserv	1528.60	4.50
Bajaj Finance	6697.70	81.25
Bharti Airtel	1372.75	-4.40
BPCL	627.80	2.05
Britannia Ind	5179.80	-18.75
Cipla	1447.20	-19.40
Coal India	491.20	9.05
Divis Lab	4307.20	-105.60
Dr Reddys Lab	5791.85	-81.90
Eicher Motors	4733.45	-9.50
Grasim Ind	2316.25	-28.95
HCL Tech	1324.10	-7.75
HDFC Bank	1531.55	16.70
HDFC Life	549.85	-0.90
Hero MotoCorp	5119.60	-16.40
Hindalco	689.35	-5.80
Hind Unilever	2329.05	-22.35
ICICI Bank	1121.05	7.35
IndusInd Bank	1461.85	15.05
Infosys	1406.90	-20.55
ITC	426.45	2.60
JSW Steel	880.55	-3.15
Kotak Bank	1680.40	-9.70
L&T	3669.30	34.60
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4701.90	-71.25
M&M	2506.25	12.75
Maruti Suzuki	12399.30	-198.70
NestleIndia	2354.90	-49.90
NTPC	359.00	-0.70
ONGC	264.35	-2.35
PowerGrid Corp	310.00	3.30
Reliance Ind	2860.80	11.10
SBI Life	1386.40	6.35
State Bank	830.35	4.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2354.05	51.35
Sun Pharma	1459.80	0.70
TataConsumerProduct	1060.25	-6.95
Tata Motors	923.00	-0.95
Tata Steel	167.20	3.05
TCS	3670.95	-65.15
Tech Mahindra	1228.45	-12.40
Titan	3241.90	-29.95
UltraTech Cement	9915.50	46.65
Wipro	438.20	1.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 31

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.26	83.58
Euro	90.34	90.69
British Pound	105.91	106.32
Japanese Yen (100)	52.94	53.14
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.54
Swiss Franc	91.85	92.21
Singapore Dollar	61.58	61.83
Canadian Dollar	61.05	61.29
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.77
Australian Dollar	55.36	55.58

Source:Indian Bank

Fiscal deficit in FY24 narrowed to 5.6% on better tax mop-up

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central government's fiscal deficit during 2023-24 at 5.6% of the GDP was better than the previous estimates of 5.8% on account of higher revenue realisation and lower expenditure, according to official data released on Friday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit – or gap between expenditure and revenue – was ₹16.53 lakh crore, or 5.63% of the GDP, which grew 8.2% in FY24.

In the revised estimate for 2023-24, the government had in the Interim Budget presented in Parliament on February 1 projected the fiscal deficit at ₹17.34 lakh crore, or 5.8% of the GDP.

According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the government's revenue collection was 101.2% of the revised estimates (RE) presented in the Budget.

Net tax collection was ₹23.26 lakh crore in FY24.

The expenditure stood at ₹44.42 lakh crore.

The expenditure during the last fiscal was 98.9% of the revised estimates.

'S&P Global to watch India fiscal glidepath for ratings upgrade'

Reuters
MUMBAI

S&P raised India's sovereign rating outlook to 'positive' from 'stable' but kept the rating at "BBB-"

S&P Global Ratings will watch the incoming Indian government's fiscal consolidation path for the next two years for a possible sovereign ratings upgrade, an analyst at the ratings agency said on Friday.

S&P raised India's sovereign rating outlook to 'positive' from 'stable' on Wednesday, citing the country's strong economic fundamentals.

However it kept the rating itself at "BBB-".

"Within the next two years, we are closely observing whether the depiction of the government's fiscal consolidation path will carry on," Yeefarn Phua, Director – Sovereign and International Public Finance Ratings, said in a webinar in answer to a question.

'TCS investing, building capabilities to respond to rapid tech shifts'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

N. Chandrasekaran

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) is making significant investments and building capabilities to partner with customers during this phase of rapid technological shifts, Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said.

"In FY24, TCS consolidated AI and cloud expertise with the creation of the AI. Cloud unit," he said, addressing shareholders at the company's 29th AGM on Friday.

"In addition, each of the business groups are developing domain specific AI/Gen AI offerings," he said, adding that the company had upskilled more than three lakh employees on GenAI technologies.

"We have doubled down on partnerships in areas such as AI, cloud, quantum computing and cybersecurity. These early investments position your company as a trusted partner in customers' technology adoption journey," Mr. Chandrasekaran said.

For partnering with customers on their energy transition journey, TCS is investing in research on green hydrogen, biofuels, and developing digital platforms to help customers reduce scope 1/2/3 emissions, he said.

Maruti, DBS Bank ink pact for inventory funding

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) said it has signed an MoU with DBS Bank India for dealer inventory funding. "This strategic alliance strengthens our relationship with the bank, harnessing the combined capabilities of MSIL and DBS Bank India to deliver comprehensive working capital solutions for our dealer partners," said Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India.

"We will leverage our digital supply chain solutions to ensure MSIL dealers are supported throughout the entire business cycle," said Divyesh Dalal, MD and Head, Global Transaction Services, SME and Institutional Liability Business, DBS Bank.

Adani FY24 net jumps 55%; mulls $90-bn capex

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Adani group saw a 55% profit surge in the fiscal year ended March 2024 as the apples-to-airport conglomerate is back on an expansion spree and eyeing a $90 billion capex over the next decade.

Emerging from a damning report of a U.S. short seller, which hit market value of its listed companies, Adani group in 2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) fiscal focused on containing debt, reducing founder share pledge and consolidating business in core competencies.

This helped net profit surge to ₹30,767 crore for the group's listed companies in the fiscal from ₹19,833 crore a year earlier, according to exchange data and analysts. The five-year CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) for profit growth was 54%.

EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) rose 40% to ₹66,244 crore despite a 6% revenue fall.

EBITDA surges 40%

"Total group EBITDA grew 40% year-on-year in FY24 (5-year CAGR of over 27%), group raised fresh funds from equity/debt/strategic investors, promoter increased stake in group companies and group Mcap rebounded," as per a Jefferies note. "The group is back on an expansion spree and eyeing $90 billion capex over next decade." Group leverage was at a multi-year low.

"Net debt at the group level (eight companies plus debt related to cement-business acquisition) was stable at ₹2.2 lakh crore in FY24 vs ₹2.3 lakh crore.

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
GEM Procurement
Bids are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

Sl. No.	Item Category	Quantity (Nos)	Bid Number	Bid End Date
1	VEHICLE MOUNTED SUCTION cum JETTING MACHINE with WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM - HEAVY DUTY	1	GEM/2024/B/4975200	07-06-2024

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

SBI
STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
Amaravati LHO, 2nd Floor, Gunfoundry, Abids, Hyderabad – 500 001 Ph: 040 - 23387220/234
NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF CONTRACTORS
Applications/EOI are invited from experienced/domain experts of reputed firms for empanelment in 3 categories for SBI branches/offices of Amaravati Circle i) Smoke Detection & Fire Alarm System ii) Fire extinguishers and iii) Consulting Firms/External Fire Auditors for conducting fire audit. For further details, please log on to: https://bank.sbi →SBI in the News→ "procurement News". Last date of receipt of application/EOI in the specified format is up to 3.30 P.M on 15.07.2024.
Place : Hyderabad
Date : 01.06.2024
Asst. General Manager
Premises and Estate Department

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN: – U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (राजस्थान सरकार का उपक्रम)
VIDYUT BHAWAN, JANPATH, JYOTI NAGAR, JAIPUR - 302005
CIN - U40102RJ2000SGC016484
E-mail: accountsrvunl@yahoo.com Website: energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvun
Extract of Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended (Standalone and Consolidated) 31st March, 2024
(₹ in Lakhs)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated	
		For the Quarter ended 31.03.2024	For the Quarter ended 31.12.2023	For the Quarter ended 31.03.2023*	For the year ended 31.03.2024	For the year ended 31.03.2023*	For the year ended 31.03.2024	For the year ended 31.03.2023*
		Un-audited	Un-audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income From Operations	552,356.27	483,077.99	481,163.67	1,984,548.65	1,836,868.27	2,017,579.94	1,959,438.88
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(104,027.50)	(94,896.54)	(86,160.59)	(338,181.90)	(267,482.54)	(377,676.15)	(304,680.22)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(186,015.74)	(106,225.98)	(96,792.19)	(1,305,993.76)	(625,180.81)	(1,298,973.66)	(621,874.80)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(186,015.74)	(106,225.98)	(96,792.19)	(1,305,993.76)	(625,180.81)	(1,298,973.66)	(621,874.80)
5	Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(191,847.09)	(108,452.46)	(100,144.61)	(1,318,504.55)	(634,086.75)	(1,312,214.40)	(631,355.76)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value ₹10/-per share)	1,063,174.00	1,063,174.00	1,060,523.00	1,063,174.00	1,060,523.00	1,063,174.00	1,060,523.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(2,726,774.07)	(2,534,926.98)	(1,408,269.51)	(2,726,774.07)	(1,408,269.51)	(2,713,481.39)	(1,401,267.00)
8	Net Worth [Share Capital + Reserves and Surplus (excluding fly ash utilization fund) - Miscellaneous Expenditure not written off]	(1,657,930.04)	(1,472,245.41)	(346,184.94)	(1,657,930.04)	(346,184.94)	(1,644,624.37)	(339,169.43)
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt**	3,711,291.21	3,920,599.15	4,103,279.24	3,711,291.21	4,103,279.24	3,717,904.74	4,115,304.64
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio (Paid-up debt capital / Shareholder's Equity)****	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
12	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each)(for continuing and discontinued operations- basic & diluted)(in ₹)	(1.75)	(0.98)	(0.91)	(12.29)	(5.90)	(12.23)	(5.87)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve***	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio [(Profit for the period + Interest + Depreciation + Exceptional items) / (Finance Cost+ lease payments + Scheduled principal repayments of long term borrowings)	(0.50)	0.24	0.35	(1.63)	0.36	0.23	0.35
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio [(Profit for the period + Interest + Depreciation + Exceptional items) /Finance Cost + Lease Payments)]	(1.22)	0.53	0.74	(4.24)	0.85	0.58	0.80
17	Current ratio (Current assets / Current liabilities)	0.25	0.32	0.99	0.25	0.99	0.23	0.96
18	Long term debt to working capital ratio (Long term borrowings including current maturity of long term borrowings/ (working capital excluding current maturities of long term borrowings))	(4.34)	(7.45)	5.98	(4.34)	6.96	(4.14)	6.41
19	Bad debts to accounts receivable ratio (Bad debts / Average Trade receivables)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Current liability ratio (Current liabilities / Total liabilities)	0.41	0.36	0.30	0.41	0.30	0.41	0.30
21	Total debts to Total assets ratio (Paid up debt capital/ Total Assets)	1.09	1.12	0.91	1.09	0.91	1.08	0.91
22	Debtor turnover ratio (Revenue from operations/ Average trade receivables) - Annualised	10.31	2.92	1.45	2.83	1.06	2.93	1.08
23	Inventory turnover ratio (Revenue from operations / Average Inventory) - Annualised	17.31	16.33	19.10	18.86	20.34	18.46	19.83
24	Operating Margin (%) (Earnings before interest, tax and exceptional items / Revenue from operations)	-1.03%	0.86%	8.76%	2.93%	11.16%	(66.12%)	(34.37%)
25	Net Profit Margin (%) (Profit for the period/ Revenue from operations)	(33.68%)	(21.99%)	(20.12%)	(65.81%)	(34.04%)	(65.49%)	(33.89%)

*Restated (Refer Note No. 14)
** Comprises Long Term Debt and short term debt.
*** Debenture Redemption Reserve could not be created due to accumulated losses.
**** Not Applicable due to Negative Net Worth.
Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Quarterly and yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and yearly financial results of the Company is available under investors section of our website ' energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl'.
2. The figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2024 are the balancing figures between the audited figures in respect of full financial years and the reviewed figures up to the end of the third quarter of the current financial year.
3. Figures for the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
(Devendra Shringi)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 09817426
Date : 30.05.2024
Place Jaipur RVUN/PR-4000
Raj.Samwad/C/24/259

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
DNB-PDCET 2024
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the DNB-PDCET 2024 on 21st July 2024.
Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	28th May 2024 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	28th May 2024 (3 PM Onwards) to 17th June 2024 (Till 11:55PM)
Date of Examination	21st July 2024
Declaration of the Result	By 21st August 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

Department of Science and Technology
Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of India
Call for Applications under INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship
(A component under INSPIRE scheme)
2024
INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship is a component under INSPIRE scheme for young researchers in the age group of 27-32 years. Applications for the year 2024 are invited for INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship. The upper age limit as on **1st January 2024** is 32 years for General category (*i.e.* those born on or after 1st January 1992), 37 years for SC/ST/Women (*i.e.* those born on or after 1st January 1987) and for candidates with benchmark disabilities (Divyangjan with not less than 40 percent of a specified disability) the upper age limit is 42 years (*i.e.* those born on or after 1st January 1982).
Eligible candidates may apply **only** in **ONLINE** mode on INSPIRE Web-portal: **www.online-inspire.gov.in** and follow the process prescribed therein. **The last date for submission of applications is 15th July 2024 (till 23:59 hrs. IST).** Detailed Advertisement, Guidelines, FAQs and other related information are available on: **www.online-inspire.gov.in** .

MANNHEIM

Six wounded in knife attack at German anti-Islam rally

REUTERS

Six persons, including a prominent critic of Islam and a police officer, were wounded in a knife attack at a far-right rally in Germany on Friday, drawing immediate condemnation from the nation's leaders. The attack, days before EU-wide elections, comes amid a spike of politically motivated violence in Germany. AFP

SINGAPORE

U.S.'s Lloyd Austin meets Chinese Defence Minister to cool tensions

REUTERS

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin met his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun for more than an hour on Friday along the lines of the Shangri-La defence forum, as the two countries seek to repair lines of communications between their militaries that could be critical as tensions rise between the two in the Indo-Pacific region. AP

HODEIDA

Yemen rebels threaten 'escalation' as U.S., U.K. strikes allegedly kill 16

REUTERS

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis on Friday threatened to escalate attacks on Red Sea shipping after overnight strikes by the U.S. and Britain that the rebels said killed 16 persons. The toll would be one of the deadliest strikes since the U.S. and the U.K. started their campaign in January against disruption of the vital trade route. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan government to return Bills expanding powers to parliament

AFP

Taiwan's Premier Cho Jung-tai said on Friday the controversial Bills expanding parliament's powers will be sent back to the legislature, citing worries about their constitutionality after it led to protests against government overreach. Critics fear the laws could weaken Taiwan's democracy against the influence of China. AFP

Pfizer drug is interim fix for rare form of lung cancer

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A Pfizer lung cancer drug has been shown to greatly reduce tumour progression and improve survival outcomes for people in the advanced stages of a rare form of the disease, according to trial results.

Lorlatinib, already available under the brand name Lorbrena in the U.S., was tested in hundreds of people with anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK)-positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Roughly half received lorlatinib while the rest received an earlier generation drug. After five years of follow-up, more than half of patients treated with lorlatinib did not see their cancer progress.

Germany, U.S. let Ukraine use their weapons to hit targets inside Russia

Kyiv has the right under international law to defend itself against Russia's attacks on Kharkiv, says Berlin; the move triggered a furious response from Moscow; a top security official warned 'Ukraine and its NATO allies' of a devastating response

Associated Press
KYIV

Germany joined the U.S. on Friday in authorising Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying – a significant policy change that comes as depleted Ukrainian troops are losing ground in the war.

Ukrainian officials have expressed frustration over restrictions on the use of Western weapons – especially as the border region of Kharkiv has endured a Russian onslaught this month that has stretched Kyiv's outgunned and outmanned forces.

New support: German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius and Ukraine's Defence Minister Rustem Umerov in Odesa. REUTERS

Both Germany and the U.S. specifically authorised the use of weapons to defend Kharkiv, whose capital city of the same name lies only 20 km from Russia. Russian ballistic missiles slammed into an apartment building in the city overnight, Ukrainian officials said, killing at least five people.

The German government said Ukraine can use weapons it supplies against positions just over the border, from where Russia launches its attacks on Kharkiv.

A day earlier, U.S. President Joe Biden gave Kyiv a green light to strike back with American weapons at Russian military assets targeting the region, according to U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

In response, Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council, said on Friday that "Ukraine and its NATO allies will receive such a devastating response that the alliance will not be able to avoid entering the conflict" – an eventuality that Western governments have ruled out.

The German government statement noted that, in recent weeks, Russia has prepared, coordinated and carried out attacks on the Kharkiv region, in particular from areas just over the border in Russia.

"Together we are convinced that Ukraine has the right under international law to defend itself against these attacks," the statement said. "For this, it can also use the weapons delivered for that purpose in accordance with its international legal commitments, including the ones delivered by us," it added.

Blinken dismisses Russia accusations of Trump persecution

Agence France-Presse
PRAGUE

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday hit back at Russia's allegation that the conviction of former President Donald Trump showed that the White House was targeting political rivals.

"I would say that's a classic case of projection," Mr. Blinken told reporters at a NATO meeting in Prague.

No further comments

The top U.S. diplomat declined any further comment on the Trump verdict, including on whether his NATO counterparts raised it, saying he does not discuss domestic U.S. politics.

Antony Blinken

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow that the conviction of Mr. Trump showed that President Joe Biden's administration was "eliminating" its political rivals.

Mr. Trump, who has voiced admiration in the past for Russian President Vladimir Putin, is seeking to win back the White House from Mr. Biden in November elections.

S. Africa heading for 'coalition country' as partial poll results have ANC below 50%

Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa was heading closer to the reality of a national coalition government for the first time on Friday as partial election results put the ruling African National Congress well short of a majority.

With more than half of votes counted across the country's nine provinces, the ANC had received just under 42% of the national vote. That represented a huge drop from the 57.5% it received in the last national election in 2019, although the final results from Wednesday's election have not yet been declared.

Future prospects: John Steenhuisen, leader of South Africa's main Opposition party, said he was open to working with the ANC. AFP

The commission that runs the election said those would be announced by Sunday, possibly sooner.

The count from more than 13,000 of the 23,000 polling stations raised the strong possibility that the ANC would need a coalition partner to form a government and re-elect President Cyril Ramaphosa for a second and final term.

The leader of South Africa's main Opposition party said he was open to working with the ANC, although he would have to first speak with a group of other parties that he has a preelection agreement with.

"The way to rescue South Africa is to break the ANC's majority and we have done that," said John Steenhuisen, the leader of the Democratic Alliance party.

The ANC is widely expected to still be the biggest party and to have the most seats in parliament.

11 killed as Israel strikes targets across Gaza, troops push into central Rafah

Agence France-Presse
RAFAH

Israeli forces on Friday struck targets across the Gaza Strip, with witnesses reporting air raids around the southern city of Rafah, the latest focus of the nearly eight-month war.

Israel launched its military incursion into Rafah in early May despite international objections over the safety of civilians sheltering in the city on Gaza's border with Egypt.

Witnesses said on Friday Israeli strikes hit the Rafah area as well as central Gaza's Nuseirat while intense bombardment was reported in the north.

No respite: Palestinians flee with their belongings in the area of Tel al-Sultan in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday. AFP

Strikes on two separate locations killed a total of 11 persons overnight, medical sources at a hospital in Deir al-Balah and the Nuseirat refugee camp reported.

The Israeli military said its forces were "operating in central Gaza", where it earlier announced forces had found rocket launchers, weapons and "tunnel shafts".

An air strike "targeted and eliminated" a militant in the Rafah area, the military said.

In central Gaza, further air strikes "eliminated several terrorists who operated near" troops, the military said without elaborating.

Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's Qatar-based political office, reiterated in a Friday that the group's core demands – including a permanent ceasefire and full Israeli withdrawal – "are non-negotiable".

Sport

Real stands in the way of Dortmund's fairytale finish

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Borussia Dortmund faces the acid test after a fairytale run to Saturday's Champions League final as a star-studded Real Madrid rolls into Wembley expecting to be crowned European champion for a 15th time.

No club can come close to the Spanish giants' success in the competition and it is strong favourite against a Dortmund side that has beaten the odds just to make it to London.

Madrid's habit of somehow getting over the line when it matters in the Champions League has been exemplified in its run to the final.

The big prize: The UEFA Champions League trophy on display at Wembley ahead of the final. AP

Carlo Ancelotti's men withstood a barrage from defending champion Manchester City to win their quarterfinal tie on penalties before another legendary late fightback to beat Bayern Munich.

Madrid has lost just twice in 54 games in all competitions, storming to the title in LaLiga by 10 points and thrashing Barcelona 4-1 to lift the Spanish Super Cup.

Yet, Edin Terzic's men have saved their best for the Champions League stage to reach the final for the third time in the club's history and first since they lost to Bayern Munich 11 years ago.

Dortmund topped the group of death featuring Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and Newcastle. As impressive as keeping out Real-bound Kylian Mbappe was in the last four, Dortmund realises it must go to another level if Madrid is to lose a European final for the first time since 1983.

The fixture: Dortmund vs Real Madrid, 12.30 a.m. IST (Sunday).

There has been plenty of time to prepare for Paris Olympics: Sharath

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Sharath Kamal has a rich trophy cabinet, but an Olympic medal has proved elusive. On the verge of competing in his fifth Games, the 41-year-old said clinching a medal in Paris was his "dream".

"I have won gold in the Commonwealth Games, bronze in the Asian Games (doubles with Manika Batra in 2018). An Olympic medal is missing in my cabinet. I hope I can fulfil my dream and that of the table tennis fraternity, but it is going to be tough," said Sharath.

The star paddler said India has been doing well since 2016, and qualifying in singles and the team events has been a shot in the arm.

The ultimate goal: Sharath said winning an Olympic medal is his dream. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

"In team events, there is a doubles rubber where the Indians have been strong and doing well. We hope that it (winning a medal at the Games) happens this time," said Sharath, on a Zoom call, organised by the TTFI, IOA and SAI on Friday. The 10-time National champion felt that the appointment of Massimo Costantini as coach, though delayed, has come at the right time.

"With Max (Costantini), we will focus on team events, including doubles. We will be trying out different combinations for doubles. Doubles is the first tie in the team events, and it will be crucial. Max (Costantini) is the right man for the job," he said, adding that he was looking forward to training with Costantini in Bengaluru from June 7 to 17.

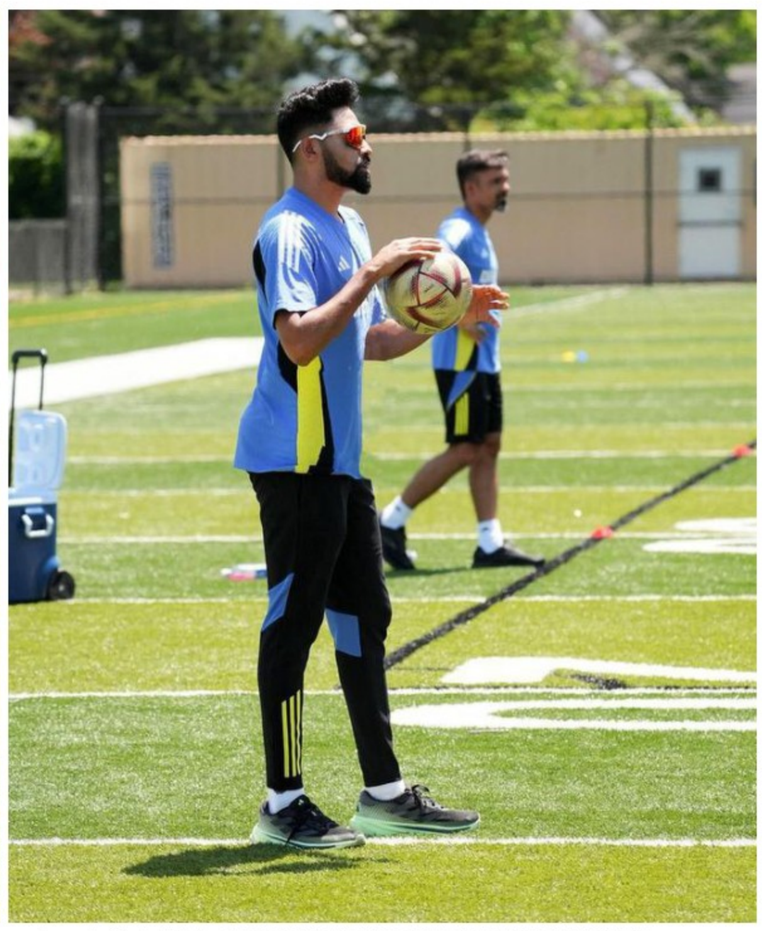
Sharath said qualifying in March itself has given enough time to prepare for the mega event. "There's been plenty of time (six weeks) to get ready for Paris. I had documents on my preparations of my training in previous Olympics."

Can Dravid extract the best out of the Men in Blue and bow out on a high?

Rohit will have much of the same personnel from the 2022 campaign; Kohli, Suryakumar and Bumrah's form will be key to India's fortunes

T20 WC COUNTDOWN

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU



Air of anticipation: Allrounder Hardik will have a major role to play while Siraj will be eager to make the ball talk. @HARDIKPANDYA7, INSTAGRAM@MOHAMMEDSIRAJOFFICIAL

It was in November 2021 that Rahul Dravid, then the newly appointed India head coach, stated that his side needed to focus on three "big events" – the 2022 T20 World Cup, the 2021-23 ICC World Test Championship, and the 2023 ODI Cricket World Cup.

To claim an ICC trophy was paramount for Dravid and his men, having faced a drought since the exploits of M.S. Dhoni's side in the 2013 Champions Trophy.

So here we are, nearly three years later, approaching the end of Dravid's reign. The three big events have come and gone, and India is yet to scale the highest peak.

The 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup presents Dravid the last chance to add that exclamation point to his coaching tenure.

Much like Dravid, captain Rohit Sharma cannot escape a world event without repeatedly being reminded about India's long empty cabinet.

Rohit came closest to achieving the dream last year, disrupted only by a ruthless Australia in the final of the 2023 ODI CWC. Rohit also led the charge at the previous edition of the T20 mega event, where eventual champion England thumped India by 10 wickets in the semifinal.

Rohit will have much of the same personnel from two years ago on duty here. Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav, the highest and third highest tournament run scorers in 2022, come in hot again on the back of good performances in IPL 2024.

The presence of Jasprit Bumrah, who missed the festivities in 2022 due to a back injury, makes the line-up far more potent. Bumrah's yorkers and pinpoint accuracy can pull the team out of desperate times.

The team management will do well to implore the players to learn from a grave mistake committed in the 2023 final.

The batters were much too cautious at Ahmedabad – a mistake that can sound the death knell in modern-day T20 cricket. Attack, attack, attack, and live with the consequences – this is the only way to go.

It would be no exaggeration to state that India has received a favourable draw. It faces no banana skin in Group A, with Pakistan being the only major threat.

At least on paper, Ireland, USA, and Canada should be easy pickings. India's progress to the Super 8s – reserved for the top two teams in each group – is virtually guaranteed.

No World Cup is complete without a marquee India-Pakistan game. It is the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York which will play host to this highly-anticipated game on June 9.

Kohli's majestic straight six off Haris Rauf at Melbourne is still fresh in the memory. The occasion demands another highlight for the ages.

The bigger tests await in the Super 8s, which will be held in the West Indies. India, and Dravid in particular, will not carry good memories from the last time the Caribbean hosted a big event. Visuals from the 2007 World Cup shock group-stage exit, under the captaincy of Dravid, is best buried and forgotten. Thankfully, this group of players bear no scars from that horror.

And thus another quest begins. Dravid, Rohit & Co. will be desperate not to return empty-handed.

ADAPTING

Rohit hopes for quick acclimatisation of the New York pitch

Rohit Sharma underlined the need for India to get acclimatised to the pitch and conditions in New York quickly. "We're looking to understand the conditions more importantly as we haven't been here before. We will try and make the most of the situation, get used to what it's going to be like on June 5 when we play our first game," Rohit told ICC.

EXCITING TIMES

'People in New York will be interested in watching the WC'

Rohit Sharma heaped praise on the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. "It looks beautiful. It's a decent capacity as well. People in New York will be very interested in coming and watching the World Cup, as it is happening for the first time here," he told ICC.

Dark horse Ireland has the ability to upset the big boys

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Big leap: If Ireland can string together a few good performances, it could make the Super 8s. ICC

In *The Hindu's* countdown to the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which commences in the West Indies and USA on June 2, we take a look at the teams in Group-A.

PAKISTAN: The 2009 T20 World Cup champion received a fillip when fast bowler Haris Rauf was declared fit for the tournament. Rauf, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Amir, Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi make a pace-heavy attack. Afridi has found his groove, picking up nine wickets in his last four T20I matches.

Southpaw opener Fakhar Zaman leads the charge as Pakistan is keen to shift to a more attacking approach with the bat.

Key player: Babar Azam: The stylist is in good nick with scores of 36, 32, 75 and 57 in his last five games (against Ireland and England).

The squad: Babar Azam (Capt.), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi and Usman Khan.

USA: The co-host showed that they are no pushovers, scripting a 2-1 T20I series win over Bangladesh last week. It was the perfect start for new head coach and former Australia international Stuart Law.

The side had also blanked Canada 4-0 earlier. Former New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson brings world-class experience to the unit.

Key player: Ali Khan: The side is buoyed by the inclusion of the Pakistan-born speedster, who made his way back from an injury layoff.

The squad: Monank Patel (Capt.), Aaron Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Nosthush Kenjige, Saurabh Nethravalkar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor and Shayan Jahangir.

IRELAND: A recent addition to the ICC full member list, Ireland has earned an eighth consecutive spot at the T20 World Cup. The side enters the tournament in good rhythm, having outclassed Scotland and Netherlands to win the tri-nation T20I series.

If Ireland can pull off an upset against either India or Pakistan, it can make the big leap into the Super 8s – a feat it achieved in the 2009 ICC World Twenty20.

Key player: Mark Adair: The all-rounder did exceedingly well in the tri-nation tournament, picking up seven wickets with his fast bowling and scoring vital runs in the lower-order.

The squad: Paul Stirling (Capt.), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White and Craig Young.

CANADA: This is a landmark occasion for Canada, which will compete in its first ever T20 World Cup. The nation, however, has appeared in four ODI World Cups (1979, 2003, 2007 and 2011).

Canada produced a couple of highlights in the 2003 ODI World Cup – a 60-run win over Bangladesh, and a swashbuckling 76-ball 111 by opening batter John Davison against West Indies. It is not beyond this squad to recreate the magic.

Key player: Saad Bin Zafar: The captain, with 38 T20Is under his belt, is a stable presence. The Pakistan-born Zafar is as steady left-arm spinner and handy lower middle-order bat.

The squad: Saad Bin Zafar (Capt.), Aaron Johnson, Ravinderpal Singh, Navneet Dhaliwal, Kaleem Sana, Dilon Heyliger, Jeremy Gordon, Nikhil Dutta, Pargat Singh, Nicholas Kirton, Rayyankhan Pathan, Junaid Siddiqui, Dilpreet Bajwa, Shreyas Movva and Rishiv Joshi.

Swiatek has a cakewalk on her birthday; Sinner through

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Special day, special show: There was no stopping Swiatek on her 23rd birthday. GETTY IMAGES

Reigning champion Iga Swiatek celebrated her 23rd birthday by brushing aside Marie Bouzkova to reach the French Open last 16 on Friday, while Coco Gauff eased into the second week for a fourth straight year and Jannik Sinner also powered through with a win over Russian Pavel Kotov 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Sixth seed Andrey Rublev suffered a shock exit at the hands of unheralded Italian Matteo Arnaldi, losing his cool repeatedly as anger at his performance boiled over.

Swiatek had to save a match point to avoid an upset defeat by fellow four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka in a second-round thriller, but she was never in trouble during a 6-4, 6-2 win over Czech Bouzkova.

The World No. 1 is a red-hot favourite to lift the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen for a third straight year and become only the fourth woman to win four Roland Garros titles in the Open era.

She was much closer to her best form on Friday, hitting 34 winners and making only 19 unforced errors.

Swiatek will play Russia's Anastasia Potapova in the next round on Sunday.

Gauff held off a late fightback from Australian Open semifinalist Dayana Yastremska to win 6-2, 6-4 in the first match of the day on Court Philippe Chatrier.

The 20-year-old failed to serve out the match when leading 5-2 in the second set, but saved three break points in the 10th game before getting over the line.

Rublev crashes out

Rublev became the biggest casualty in the men's draw so far, as he fell to a surprise straight-sets defeat by Italian Matteo Arnaldi.

Rublev, who lifted the Madrid Open title last month, repeatedly smashed his racquet in frustration as he made 37 unforced errors in an erratic display. "Completely disappointed with myself the way I behaved, the way I performed," admitted the Russian.

"The problem is the head, that today basically I killed myself, and that's it."

Sinner barely had to break sweat, though, saving the only break point he faced in a dominant display against Kotov.

Elsewhere in the women's draw, Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova ended the run of Frenchwoman Chloe Paquet, winning 6-1, 6-3.

Tunisian eighth seed Ons Jabeur beat Leylah Fernandez, teeing up a fourth-round match with Clara Tauson, after the Dane followed her surprise second-round success against Jelena Ostapenko by knocking out former finalist Sofia Kenin.

TOP RESULTS

Third round:
Men: Arnaldi (Ita) bt 6-Rublev (Rus) 7-6(6), 6-2, 6-4; 2-Sinner (Ita) bt Kotov (Rus) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 9-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Zhang (Chn) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.
Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Bouzkova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; 8-Jabeur (Tun) bt Fernandez (Can) 6-4, 7-6(5); Danilovic (Srb) bt Vekic (Cro) 0-6, 7-5, 7-6(8); 3-Gauff (USA) bt 30-Yastremska (Ukr) 6-2, 6-4; Cocciaretto (Ita) bt 17-Samsonova (Rus) 7-6(4), 6-2; 5-Vondrousova (Cze) bt Paquet (Fra) 6-1, 6-3.

Saturday's picks

MEN
1-Djokovic *vs* 30-Musetti
4-Zverev *vs* 26-Griekspoor
5-Medvedev *vs* Machac
7-Ruud *vs* 28-Etcheverry

WOMEN
2-Sabalenka *vs* Badosa
4-Rybakina *vs* 25-Mertens
7-Zheng *vs* Avanesyan
12-Paolini *vs* Andreescu

PRECAUTIONARY

Marsh will not bowl in T20 WC opener: Coach McDonald

Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh will not bowl in its T20 World Cup opener against Oman on June 6, said head coach Andrew McDonald on Friday. "It looks as though he's all set for the first game... the second part is just when the bowling comes back online... it won't be the first game," McDonald told *cricket.com.au*.

INEFFICIENT

Arshdeep was not utilised properly in the IPL, says R.P. Singh

Punjab Kings didn't utilise Arshdeep Singh properly during the IPL but can be very effective during the death overs at the T20 World Cup, reckons R.P. Singh. "I think he hasn't been utilised well. The utilisation of the bowlers also depend on their captain, in which conditions he uses them and how good he thinks his bowler is," R.P. Singh said.

Vaishali gets the better of Cramling, extends lead

With 8.5 points, the Indian is 2.5 points ahead of Ju and Anna; Praggnanandhaa slips to the fourth place after going down to the new table-topper Nakamura

NORWAY CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Vaishali extended her sole lead while her younger brother R. Praggnanandhaa lost his in the fourth round of the Norway Chess tournament at Stavanger on Thursday.

Vaishali won her classical game against Sweden's Pia Cramling with black pieces, making use of her rival's blunder on the 48th move in an ending featuring rook and pawns. Cramling resigned six moves later.

Vaishali thus got three points and took her tally to 8.5. She is followed on six points by World champion Ju Wenjun of China and Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk.

Ju overcame compatriot Lei Tingjie in Armageddon, while Muzychuk defeated Koneru Humpy in the classical format itself. Lie has five points, while Humpy and Cramling have three each.

Cashing in: Vaishali made Cramling pay for her blunder on the 48th move. NORWAY CHESS

In the Open section, Praggnanandhaa was beaten by Hikaru Nakamura in the classical game. The American, who won in 86 moves with black pieces after his opponent failed to get much advantage with his knight sacrifice early on, thus took the sole lead.

Nakamura has seven points, half-a-point ahead of France's Alireza Firouzja, who beat China's Ding Liren in classical chess. The day's other match also was decided in the same format, top seed Magnus Carlsen of Norway beating Fabiano Caruana of the United States.

Carlsen is in third place with six points, while Praggnanandhaa has 5.5. The tournament will resume on Saturday after a day's rest.

The results (fourth round):

Open: Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 7 bt R. Praggnanandhaa 5.5; Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 6.5 bt Ding Liren (Chn) 2.5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 5 lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 6.

Women: Pia Cramling (Swe) 3 lost to R. Vaishali 8.5; Koneru Humpy 3 lost to Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 6; Lei Tingjie (Chn) 5 lost to Ju Wenjun (Chn) 6.

SNAPSHOTS

Wolvaardt to lead SA women against India

Laura Wolvaardt was on Friday named as captain of South Africa's Test and ODI teams for the tour of India, beginning on June 16. The tour will start with three ODIs in Bengaluru before the visitors to move to Chennai for one-off Test and T20Is, for which the squad will be announced later.

The squad (Test and ODIs): Laura Wolvaardt (Capt.), Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Mieke de Ridder, Sinalo Jafta, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Eliz-Mari Marx, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, and Delmi Tucker.

Rathika exits in the quarterfinals

India's Rathika Suthanthira went down to Malaysian third seed Sehveetrraa Kumar in the quarterfinals of the Hong Kong PSA Challenge Cup. The sixth-seeded Rathika, lost 11-6, 11-8, 11-6 to her higher-ranked opponent in the fourth leg.

Diamantakos to leave Kerala Blasters

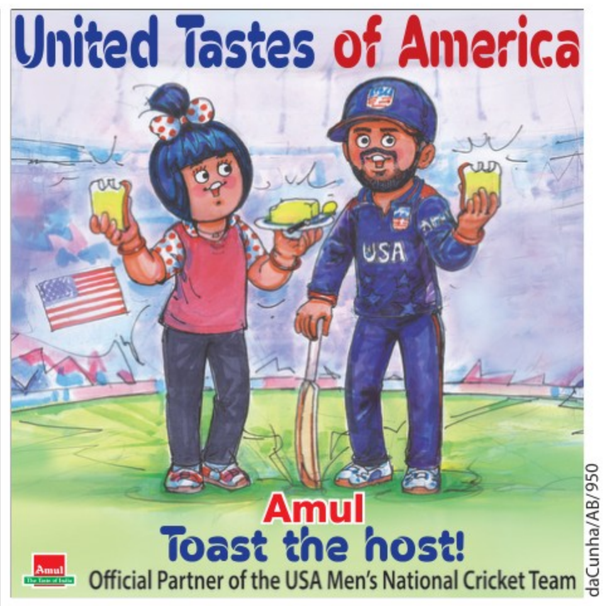
Dimitrios Diamantakos, the Indian Super League's Golden Boot award

Diamantakos. PTI

winner this season, will leave Kerala Blasters after two years with the club. Though the Greek striker, the ISL's top scorer with 13 goals from 17 games, had thrown hints that he would be leaving the club, Blasters officially announced his departure on Friday. The club also announced the departure of seasoned goalkeeper Karanjit Singh and assistant coach Frank Dauwen.

Uruguay striker Cavani retires

Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani retired from international football on Thursday, three weeks before the start of the Copa America. The 37-year-old Cavani had been a mainstay for Uruguay for the past two decades.



INBRIEF

India parts ways with IBA, joins World Boxing

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Friday parted ways with the suspended IBA and joined the breakaway World Boxing in a bid to counter the threat to the sport's Olympic future. The move comes months after the International Olympic Committee reiterated its threat to leave boxing out of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics if national federations continued to align themselves with the International Boxing Association (IBA). "It is absolutely vital to the sustainability of boxing that it retains its Olympics status, so we are delighted to join World Boxing," BFI president Ajay Singh said in a press release.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Eastern Conference finals, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 6 a.m.

Badminton: Singapore Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.

Hockey: Pro League, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 2.30, 4.30, 7.30 & 10 p.m.

T20 WC (Warm-up): India vs Bangladesh, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.

Champions League: Final, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6 a.m. (Sunday)

Nishant Dev books Olympics ticket

BOXING QUALIFIERS

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Nishant Dev (71kg) became the first Indian male pugilist to secure a Paris Games quota when he beat Vasile Cebotari of Moldova 5-0 to reach the semifinals in the Boxing Olympic qualifiers here on Friday.

Amit Panghal (51kg) and Sachin Siwach (57kg) then moved within touching distance of a quota after beating South Korea's Kim Inkyu and France's Samuel Kistohurry respectively in the pre-quarterfinals.

Nishant. X@BFI_OFFICIAL

Earlier, India's quest for booking a quota in the women's 60kg ended with Ankushita Boro's 2-3 defeat against Agnes Alexiusson of Sweden in the quarterfinals.

Treesa and Gayatri enter doubles semifinals

SINGAPORE OPEN

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

The unseeded women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand registered yet another upset win as it beat the sixth-seeded South Korean duo of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong to enter the semifinals of Singapore Open here on Friday.

The Indian duo came back from behind to notch up a 18-21, 21-19, 24-22 win in 79 minutes.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Chiranth and Nanehs' tons highlight Palar SC's runaway win

Centuries from D. Chiranth (115) and Nanehs Henan (127) helped Palar SC thrash Jawahar SC by 397 runs in a KSCA U-16 (Group I) inter-club tournament.

The scores:

Palar SC 492/5 in 50 overs (D. Chiranth 115, Nanehs Henan 127, A.C. Aryan 86, S. Leshan 85) bt Jawahar SC (2) 95 in 21.5 overs (S. Vineeth 25, S. Leshan 3/41, M. Vishnu Vismay 3/1).

Neptune 137 in 29.2 overs (Ashrith Reddy 28, Mohammed Arhaan Khan 32, G.M. Praneel 3/49, H. Chetas 3/36) lost to Minerva 138/ 4 in 34.1 overs (C. Niranjan Gowda 67 n.o.).

Lions 45 in 17.2 overs (K. Preetham Raj 3/0) lost to Vijaya CC 46/1 in 3.2 overs.

Vijaya, Malur 101 in 40.1 overs (Krish Singh Dhami 29, Panshul Sharma 25, S. Gaaurav 5/17) lost to Dooravani Cricketers (1) 105 for no loss in 20.1 overs (A. Vishnu 43 n.o, M. Shivu 55 n.o.).

Mahesh and Shanmil net two each as Juno FC runs riot against Revive FC to emerge champion

M. Mahesh and M. Mohammed Shanmil scored a brace each as Juno FC defeated Revive FC by a huge 5-0 margin in the final to win the BDFA C-division league championship on Friday.

The result (final):

Juno FC 5 (M. Mahesh 16,57, M. Mohammed Shanmil 40,54, Shanid Moideen Kutty 44) bt Revive FC 0.

Akash stars as Infinite Belagavi edges out Alchemy FC to take the honours

Akash scored two goals as Infinite Belagavi defeated Alchemy FC 3-2 in the finals to be crowned the champion of KSFA C-division North Zone.

The result (final):

Infinite Belagavi 3 (Koushik 30, Akash 56,60) bt Alchemy 2 (Albucks 12, Abash 36).

Other results: KSFA D-div South Zone: Willow FC 2 (Pradeep 18, Sanjay 21) bt Amey FC 0.

Silicon FC 1 (Wanjoplang Khariam 17) bt Sport Hood 0.

Kids Chupal FC (Jairam 30, Amit 33) 2 bt All Star FC 1 (Vipul 30).

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Note: Broad sizes / rim changing sizes are subject to ground clearance. Vehicle manufacturers' recommendations should be considered.
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